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No. 38

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 5, 2018.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RANDY K. WEBER, Sr. to act as speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 8, 2018, 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. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

AMERICAN ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to progress on a critical nationwide initiative: American energy independence. Energy is a bedrock industry of the American economic machine. Energy fosters innovation and has seen substantial leaps in efficiency, which have led to a dramatic expansion in scale.

To highlight the important progress our oil and gas producers have

achieved, we need to look no further than my home State of Kansas, even just to think back to my childhood being raised up in Butler County, Kansas, which, during World War I, was the world's largest producer of oil.

Kansas has long been known for our production in agriculture and aviation. It is the spirit of innovation that has pushed Kansans to utilize their vast and diverse energy opportunities. The Wheat State is, in fact, a top-10 State for crude oil production and has the Hugoton gas area, one of the top-producing natural gas fields in the United States.

These factors give Kansas the opportunity to be a leader in the national effort to eliminate our dependence on foreign oil. In fact, American energy exports now compete with Middle East oil for buyers in Asia. Daily trading volumes of U.S. oil futures contracts have more than doubled in the past decade.

I was reminded of the size of the export opportunity this past week when I was in Mexico City in NAFTA discussions. With improved delivery systems and more efficient extraction methods, the United States is now exporting more than 1.7 million barrels of crude oil each day, with an increase of 11 percent expected by 2019. The economic impacts of increased United States output are encouraging to everyone in the industry who has fought through tough times with low crude oil prices.

This expansion has shaved our Nation's oil imports by 20 percent over the past decade and provided 21st century careers in rural communities. Since the 2008 peak, we have lowered consumer prices for domestic gasoline by 37 percent.

Just a few short years ago, no one would have imagined the United States could have increased production of oil and natural gas while still cutting greenhouse gas emissions, which are now near 25-year lows, yet we have.

These advancements are evidence of the ingenuity of our producers. Further, they show that we have balanced energy production and environmental stewardship.

For the first time in generations, American energy policy is focusing on domestic production, global leadership, and economic opportunity. And that is something worth recognizing.

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 3 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ARRINGTON) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

Reverend Brian Chrzastek, O.P., Dominican House of Studies, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

All powerful and ever-living God, thankful for the peace and security of our Nation, won by the many sacrifices of those who have gone before us, we continue to seek Your aid, those who serve our country in this Congress and all who assist them.

We humbly ask that You strengthen them by Your grace. May they continue selflessly in the fulfillment of their duties. May they vigorously tend to the constituencies that they represent. May they be fair and attentive in their deliberations with their fellow representatives. And while mindful of particular interests, may they also seek to benefit all of this Nation and all of humanity itself.

□ 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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May all of us ever strive to realize the good whose possibility You call on us to trust, in what we see before us today and what awaits us tomorrow.
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 gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana 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.

RECOGNIZING MADIGAN McGRATH

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a constituent of mine from Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Her name is Madigan McGrath, an honor student who works two jobs, volunteers with the Big Brothers Big Sisters, takes three dance classes per week, has an active social life, and happens to have type 1 diabetes.

When Madigan was 13 years old, she was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. Madigan took it in stride, much quicker than expected. Before she even left the hospital, she asked if there was a brochure that she could give her friends to explain type 1 diabetes. Learning that one did not exist, Madigan made one herself.

Madigan takes every opportunity to educate others about this disease and has spread awareness of it. Through her fundraising, Madigan made a video about her illness and lifestyle. One of the quotes she used was: "Diabetes doesn't define me; I define diabetes."

She now wants to pursue a career in the medical field, specifically in pediatric endocrinology, so that she can help other kids with type 1 diabetes.

Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleagues in thanking Madigan for her commitment to helping others with this disease and educating the community and the country about type 1 diabetes.

HONORING DEPUTY JACOB PICKETT

(Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Deputy Jacob

Pickett of the Boone County Sheriff's Office, who paid the ultimate sacrifice and sacrificed his life on the job last Friday.

As Boone County Sheriff Mike Nielsen said about Jake, as those who are close to him called him: There will forever be a loss felt in our community for him. He was a warrior, and he died laying down his life for you. He will never be forgotten.

Last Friday morning, 34-year-old Boone County Sheriff's Deputy Jacob Pickett was attempting to arrest a person who had an outstanding warrant. As is so common, one department helped out another, and Deputy Pickett joined police officers from the Lebanon Police Department in pursuit. During that pursuit, he was fatally shot. Tragically, he will never return home to his loved ones and is leaving behind a wife, Jen, two very young children, and his beloved K-9 partner, a German Shepherd named Brick.

The last time a Boone County officer was killed in the line of duty was over 80 years ago, in 1935.

Deputy Pickett also served as a Tip-ton County Sheriff's Department deputy and served at the Marion County Jail, all counties I represent in the Fifth District of Indiana. He has led the Boone County Sheriff's Department K-9 Team for the last 2 years and worked with Brick around the clock. He was known by his childhood friend as a good guy all around who was kind, compassionate, and generous. He dedicated his life to serving others and continues to do so even now, as an organ donor.

As Sheriff Nielsen said, that thin blue line was crossed. I offer my deepest condolences to Deputy Pickett's family, to the Boone County Sheriff's Department and their friends, the men and women in law enforcement who mourn his loss and will cherish his memory forever.

FRUIT OF THE POISONOUS TREE

(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, there is a legal term called "fruit of the poisonous tree."

If the evidence, or tree, is tainted, then anything gained from the evidence, the fruit, is tainted as well.

A former FBI Director intentionally leaked questionable memos about President Trump, hoping it would lead to the appointment of a special prosecutor. It did. Since the evidence for a special prosecutor was tainted, the appointment of the special prosecutor was tainted, too. If the premise is faulty, the conclusion is faulty.

To continue the investigation is to violate a legal principle and dishonor our system of justice. The process is poisoned. The special prosecutor should cease and desist.

USS "CARL VINSON" MAKES A PORT CALL IN VIETNAM

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, this week, the USS *Carl Vinson* arrives in Da Nang, Vietnam. This is the first visit of a U.S. aircraft carrier to Vietnam in four decades, and obviously for a very different purpose. Together, Vietnam and America are demonstrating the importance of open sea lanes for commerce, security, and regional development.

Arriving aboard the USS *Carl Vinson* is a young officer named Tower Cook. Tower is from Dallas, Texas, and the grandson of former U.S. Senator John G. Tower of Texas. Senator Tower was elected to the Senate in a 1961 special election and served the people of Texas for 24 years. He led the implementation of President Reagan's strategy of a larger, competitive, modern Navy, and it was an honor for me to work for him the final 2 years of his term in office.

President Reagan and Senator Tower's vision of the importance of the Navy is illustrated by this week's visit of the *Carl Vinson* to Vietnam. Senator Tower, also a master chief petty officer, is looking down from his heavenly perch with great pride in seeing his grandson, Tower Cook, and the success of the United States Navy.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE VICKY HARTZLER, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable VICKY HARTZLER, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 28, 2018.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with civil subpoenas for documents and deposition testimony, issued by the United States District Court for the District of Maryland.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoenas is not consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

VICKY HARTZLER,
Member of Congress.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 5, 2018.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 5, 2018, at 10:12 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 1621.
That the Senate passed S. 2248.
That the Senate passed S. 2372.
That the Senate passed without an amendment H.R. 3656.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1700

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky) at 5 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 on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

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

MISSION VETERANS POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1209) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 901 N. Francisco Avenue, Mission, Texas, as the "Mission Veterans Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1209

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

SECTION 1. MISSION VETERANS POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 901 N. Francisco Avenue, Mission, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Mission Veterans Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Mission Veterans Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1209, introduced by the gentleman from Texas, Representative HENRY CUELLAR.

H.R. 1209 honors the veterans of Mission, Texas, for their service to this Nation, veterans like First Lieutenant Joaquin Castro.

Lieutenant Castro, born in Mission, Texas, served as a pilot in the Army Air Corps from 1941 until 1943, when he was declared missing in action.

For his service, Lieutenant Castro earned the National Defense Service Medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Air Medal with an Oak Leaf Cluster.

I look forward to hearing more about Lieutenant Castro and the veterans of Mission, Texas, from Mr. CUELLAR.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 1209, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 901 North Francisco Avenue, Mission, Texas, as the Mission Veterans Post Office Building.

At this time, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) so that he may tell us more about the honorable veterans from Mission, Texas.

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to thank the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) for his leadership and for his work on this committee; and, also, my friend from Alabama (Mr. PALMER) for the work he does on this committee.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1209, which will rename a post office facility in my district at 901 North Francisco Avenue in Mission, Texas, as the Mission Veterans Post Office.

Across my district, fine men and women of all walks of life have honorably served our country, and it is critical that we honor their service and their dedication. Mission alone is home to over 2,000 veterans, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Dedicating this post office to our veterans will serve as

an enduring reminder of the sacrifices that our friends, neighbors, and families have made while serving their country. These individuals put country ahead of self, and I am proud to recognize them with the dedicating of this post office facility.

Today in particular, I want to acknowledge the sacrifice of Captain Joaquin Castro from Mission, Texas. Captain Castro joined the Army Air Corps in 1941 and served as a B-17 pilot in the Pacific theater. He was stationed at Hickam Field in Hawaii during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, where his airfield was extensively damaged and suffered heavy casualties. However, Captain Castro would go on to serve several missions against enemy forces before being declared missing in action during a bombing mission.

He received the National Defense Service Medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Air Medal with an Oak Leaf Cluster. Captain Castro would eventually be honored with an elementary school named after him in his hometown in Mission, Texas. He was known to be a humble and diligent individual who served in a variety of jobs before joining the military. He was a janitor; he was a school bus driver; and he was a stenographer also.

We owe our freedom to veterans like Mr. Castro, which is why I am recognizing him with the dedication of this post office, not only for his service but also that of the other veterans. He is just one example of many veterans who have made countless sacrifices for their country in the face of danger. The bravery and the commitment of our veterans to our Nation demonstrates what it really means to be an American, the essence of an American.

Mr. Speaker, I would also, at this time, take a moment to thank the veterans organizations throughout my district for their tireless work in providing the care that our veterans need. Let us remember and express our gratitude to these courageous people: the veterans, their families, as well as their caregivers.

In the words of President John F. Kennedy: A nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers.

And, of course, we include women in that quote also.

This bill allows us to show our appreciation for the veterans of Mission, Texas, and to make sure that their sacrifice to our country is not forgotten.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I urge the passage of H.R. 1209, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALMER. 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 Alabama (Mr. PALMER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1209.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LANCE CORPORAL JORDAN S. BASTEAN POST OFFICE

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2673) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 514 Broadway Street in Pekin, Illinois, as the "Lance Corporal Jordan S. Bastean Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2673

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

SECTION 1. LANCE CORPORAL JORDAN S. BASTEAN POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 514 Broadway Street in Pekin, Illinois, shall be known and designated as the "Lance Corporal Jordan S. Bastean Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Lance Corporal Jordan S. Bastean Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2673, introduced by the gentleman from Illinois (Mrs. BUSTOS).

H.R. 2673 names the post office at 514 Broadway Street in Pekin, Illinois, after Lance Corporal Jordan S. Bastean. Lance Corporal Jordan S. Bastean enlisted in the United States Marine Corps after graduating high school. He deployed to the Helmand province of Afghanistan, where, on October 23, 2011, he gave his life in service of our country.

H.R. 2673 pays tribute to Corporal Bastean's sacrifice. I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 2673, a bill to designate the facility of the U.S. Postal Service located at 514

Broadway Street in Pekin, Illinois, as the Lance Corporal Jordan S. Bastean Post Office.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BUSTOS) to tell us more about Lance Corporal Jordan S. Bastean.

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from the great State of Missouri (Mr. CLAY) for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, which would designate the post office in Pekin, Illinois, as the Lance Corporal Jordan S. Bastean Post Office.

A 2010 graduate of Pekin Community High School, Jordan was a 4-year cadet in the Junior ROTC and was the captain of the air rifle team. As an avid hunter, an athlete, and a big fan of taking his dad's Jeep off-roading, he was the very definition of what it means to be a Midwesterner.

Just like a lot of young men and women from the heartland, Jordan believed in service, and he believed in being the best he could be. That is why he joined the Marines. And Lance Corporal Bastean's commitment to service was so infectious that his dad quit his job and followed him into the military.

But on October 23, 2011, during his first deployment to Afghanistan, Lance Corporal Bastean made the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation in the Helmand province. Back home, Steve and Kathy Bastean lost their only child at the age of 19.

Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, when his family releases balloons at his grave site to mark what would have been only his 26th birthday, I hope they know that a grateful Nation mourns with them.

On behalf of the families of the 17th Congressional District of Illinois and from the entire United States, I want to offer my deepest condolences to the entire Bastean family, to all of Lance Corporal Bastean's friends, and to all of the brave men and women in uniform who fight for our freedom today.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I urge the passage of H.R. 2673, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALMER. 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 Alabama (Mr. PALMER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2673.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TUSKEGEE AIRMAN POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4406) to designate the facility of

the United States Postal Service located at 99 Macombs Place in New York, New York, as the "Tuskegee Airmen Post Office Building", as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4406

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

SECTION 1. TUSKEGEE AIRMEN POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 99 Macombs Place in New York, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Tuskegee Airmen Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Tuskegee Airmen Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4406, introduced by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT).

H.R. 4406 names the U.S. Post Office at 99 Macombs Place, New York, New York, after the Tuskegee Airmen. The Tuskegee Airmen were a squadron of skilled pilots in World War II who were the first African-American military aviators in the U.S. Armed Forces. This bill honors their skill and service to the Nation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 4406, as amended, to designate the facility of the U.S. Postal Service located at 99 Macombs Place in New York City as the Tuskegee Airmen Post Office Building.

As we know, the Tuskegee Airmen had an impeccable record of saving American lives during World War II.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) to tell us the history of the esteemed Tuskegee Airmen.

□ 1715

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman LACY CLAY for

yielding time, as well as Ranking Member ELIJAH CUMMINGS and Chairman TREY GOWDY for their support in bringing this bill to the floor.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4406, my bill to designate the post office located at 99 Macombs Place in New York, New York, as the Tuskegee Airmen Post Office Building.

The Tuskegee Airmen hold a historic significance as the first Black military aviators to serve in the U.S. Army Air Corps during the peak of World War II. At the time, racial segregation remained in the U.S. Armed Forces as well as much of the country. These men were treated as second-class citizens, and much of the military establishment believed back then that Black soldiers were inferior to White soldiers. The Tuskegee Airmen proved them wrong.

Collectively, they earned more than 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, and they flew missions in secondhand P-40 planes, which were slower and more difficult to maneuver. Yet, in their more than 200 escort missions, the Tuskegee Airmen had a better success rate than any other escort groups of the 15th Air Force.

The Tuskegee Airmen were active in fighting against Jim Crow laws in the South, and their success and bravery encouraged the eventual integration of the U.S. Armed Forces. Many of the men who served in this squadron dedicated their lives to fighting for racial equality and civil rights.

Among the Tuskegee Airmen was a 26-year-old second lieutenant of Dominican heritage named Esteban Hotesse. Mr. Hotesse immigrated to the United States through Ellis Island at the age of 4 with his mother. He went on to serve as a pilot for 3 years with the Tuskegee Airmen before being killed during a military exercise in 1945.

Naming this post office after the Tuskegee Airmen is a fitting tribute to honor their memory and contributions to this country. I am proud to have sponsored this bill and look forward to the Tuskegee Airmen's legacy living on in my district for many, many years to come.

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for bringing up this bill.

The State of Alabama takes immense pride in the Tuskegee Airmen for their skill and courage.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to make the gentleman from Missouri aware that I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

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

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I urge the passage of this bill.

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

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4406, which

designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 99 Macombs Place in New York, New York, as the "Tuskegee Airmen Post Office Building."

H.R. 4406 is a fitting tribute to the African American men who fought heroically and against great odds and personal hardships, in World War II and is long overdue.

The 332nd Fighter Group and the 477th Bombardment Group of the United States Army Air Forces, which will be forever known as the "Tuskegee Airmen," were instrumental in the Allied Powers victory in World War II, and is by any standard American heroes.

For these reasons it is a fitting tribute that we honor these men by naming the Post Office at 99 Macombs Place, in Harlem, New York after them.

A few years ago about this time, I was honored to join my colleagues, Congressman JOHN LEWIS and Congressman CHARLES RANGEL, a Korean War veteran, in paying tribute to surviving members of the Tuskegee Airmen and the 555th Parachute Infantry, the famed "Triple Nickels" at a moving ceremony sponsored by the U.S. Army commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

The success of the Tuskegee Airmen in escorting bombers during World War II—achieving one of the lowest loss records of all the escort fighter groups, and being in constant demand for their services by the allied bomber units—is a record unmatched by any other fighter group.

So impressive and astounding were the feats of the Tuskegee Airmen that in 1948, it helped persuade President Harry Truman to issue his famous Executive Order No. 9981, which directed equality of treatment and opportunity in all of the United States Armed Forces and led to the end of racial segregation in the U.S. military forces.

It is a source of enormous and enduring pride that my father-in-law, Phillip Ferguson Lee, was one of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Clearly, what began as an experiment to determine whether "colored" soldiers were capable of operating expensive and complex combat aircraft ended as an unqualified success based on the experience of the Tuskegee Airmen, whose record included 261 aircraft destroyed, 148 aircraft damaged, 15,553 combat sorties and 1,578 missions over Italy and North Africa.

These outstanding African American men defied all odds and became military pilots when the United States was still subject to Jim Crow Laws and the American military was still segregated.

Not only were these men exceptional soldiers who fearlessly defended this nation, but they were torchbearers who illuminated a path for countless African Americans to follow.

The Tuskegee Airmen proved that the antidote to racism is excellence in performance.

This bill would honor the unsung heroes of World War II who valiantly fought to defend this nation and pioneered a movement that led to the desegregation of the American military.

For these reasons, I am proud to support, H.R. 4406; and I ask my colleagues to join me in voting to pass this fitting tribute to American heroes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4406, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. PALMER. 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.

LANCE CORPORAL THOMAS E. RIVERS, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4646) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1900 Corporate Drive in Birmingham, Alabama, as the "Lance Corporal Thomas E. Rivers, Jr. Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4646

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

SECTION 1. LANCE CORPORAL THOMAS E. RIVERS, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1900 Corporate Drive in Birmingham, Alabama, shall be known and designated as the "Lance Corporal Thomas E. Rivers, Jr. Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Lance Corporal Thomas E. Rivers, Jr. Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALMER. 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 Alabama?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4646. This bill names the post office at 1900 Corporate Drive in Birmingham, Alabama, after Lance Corporal Thomas E. Rivers, Jr.

Corporal Rivers was a resident of Hoover, Alabama, and a graduate of Briarwood Christian School.

Both of Rivers' grandfathers served in the military, and he desired to follow in their footsteps. Corporal Rivers wrote in a high school essay that he "wanted to be a marine since he was 10 years old," and that he believed "joining the Marines would be a good experience for him because it would teach

him to rely on God to make it through."

Two weeks after graduating from high school, Thomas fulfilled his dream by joining the Marines. He was known by his fellow marines as a man of devout faith who was always looking for ways to serve his fellow marines.

In the early morning hours of April 28, 2010, while deployed in Helmand province, Afghanistan, Rivers ordered his men to take their positions. However, the marine assigned to stand watch was exhausted. As a patrol leader, Rivers was never required to stand post, but Thomas had been reading in the Bible about how love isn't an emotion but is demonstrated in laying your life down for your friends. Rivers told the weary marine: "I'll stand post for you; you rest."

Tragically, while replacing the exhausted marine, Rivers activated an improvised explosive device. Rivers gave his life for his country and exemplified the attitude in John 15:13:

Greater love has no one than this, that he should lay down his life for his friends.

This bill pays tribute to Corporal Rivers' sacrifice. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 4646, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1900 Corporate Drive in Birmingham, Alabama, as the Lance Corporal Thomas E. Rivers, Jr. Post Office Building.

Born in Hoover, Alabama, Lance Corporal Thomas Rivers, Jr., held a deep love and dedication to both his faith and his country. Mr. Rivers dreamed of becoming a marine from a young age and enlisted following his graduation from Briarwood Christian School in 2007.

Tragically, on April 28, 2010, Lance Corporal Rivers was killed by an improvised explosive device while serving in Afghanistan. He was just 22 years old.

In order that they might honor and continue their son's love of country, Lance Corporal Rivers' parents now run a nonprofit organization that sends care packages to soldiers.

Mr. Speaker, we should pass this bill to commemorate Lance Corporal Thomas Rivers, Jr., and the ultimate sacrifice he made for the country he so loved.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 4646, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate very much the comments from the gentleman from Missouri. I know the family does.

I knew Corporal Rivers. He attended the same high school as my children. I know his mom and dad very well. He is another example—as we have heard time and time again on this floor—of young men and women willing to sac-

rifice their lives not only for their country, but for their fellow soldiers and marines. It is an honor to stand here with my friend, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) to urge passage of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to make the gentleman from Missouri aware that I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

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

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to urge the passage of this legislation for Lance Corporal Rivers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this 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 Alabama (Mr. PALMER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4646.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FIRST SERGEANT P. ANDREW MCKENNA JR. POST OFFICE

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4685) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 515 Hope Street in Bristol, Rhode Island, as the "First Sergeant P. Andrew McKenna Jr. Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4685

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

SECTION 1. FIRST SERGEANT P. ANDREW MCKENNA JR. POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 515 Hope Street in Bristol, Rhode Island, shall be known and designated as the "First Sergeant P. Andrew McKenna Jr. Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "First Sergeant P. Andrew McKenna Jr. Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALMER. 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 Alabama?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4685, introduced by the gentleman from Rhode Island, Representative DAVID CICILLINE.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4685 names the U.S. Post Office at 515 Hope Street in Bristol, Rhode Island, after U.S. Army First Sergeant P. Andrew McKenna, Jr.

First Sergeant McKenna served 15 years in the Army, most recently as a Green Beret, and then as the first sergeant for the Special Operations Joint Task Forces—Afghanistan.

In August 2015, First Sergeant McKenna was killed in action while defending Camp Integrity in Kabul, Afghanistan, against insurgents. For his bravery and leadership during the attack, he was posthumously awarded the Silver Star.

This bill would honor his service to the Nation, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 4685.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) to tell us about the heroism of First Sergeant Andrew McKenna, Jr.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I am honored to stand before you today to pay tribute to the life and service of a true American hero, First Sergeant P. Andrew McKenna, by naming the Bristol Post Office in his honor.

A native of Bristol, Rhode Island, Sergeant McKenna dedicated 17 years of his life to serve and protect our country in the United States Army.

Born in 1980 to his mother, Carol, and father, Peter, Sergeant McKenna knew at the age of 5 years old that he wanted to be a soldier, and by the age of 7 that he wanted to serve the Nation as a Green Beret. His family and close childhood friends recall him wearing camouflage-patterned clothes almost every day.

Sergeant McKenna attended Mount Hope High School in Bristol, graduating in the spring of 1998. Upon graduation, he immediately enlisted in the Army as an infantryman.

After just 3 years, he went to selection for the Green Berets. He completed the grueling Special Forces Qualification Course in 2003, achieving his lifelong dream to be a part of the military's most elite.

Sergeant McKenna was then assigned to the First Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group. He went on to serve one tour of duty in Iraq and five more tours in Afghanistan.

During his first tour in Afghanistan, from 2004 to 2005, First Sergeant McKenna was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor for his tremendous courage under fierce enemy fire during a mission that resulted in the death of a senior Taliban official. He would then go

on to earn 18 military awards, including the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal.

First Sergeant McKenna is remembered at each of his duty stations for his intense work ethic, strong attention to detail, commitment to excellence, quick sense of humor, and infectious smile. To this day, former team leaders and fellow servicemembers praise his motivation, leadership, and ability to bring out the best in the people around him.

Of the countless stories I could tell that exemplify these values in Sergeant McKenna, there is one that stands out.

In 2011, Master Sergeant Chris Corbin, a fellow Green Beret, was forced to undergo a double amputation on both legs after stepping on a hidden IED in Afghanistan. During a monthslong recovery process at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, First Sergeant McKenna would make the 5-hour drive from Fort Bragg, located in North Carolina, to visit Master Sergeant Corbin, sometimes spending multiple days or even weeks at his bedside. Master Sergeant Corbin would later go on to credit Sergeant McKenna's reliability and motivation for getting him through his recovery.

This same selfless devotion to his fellow servicemembers was, of course, not a first for Sergeant McKenna, and it would not be his last in a decorated life that was ended far too soon.

He was stationed at Camp Integrity in Kabul, Afghanistan, in August of 2015 when Taliban soldiers exploded a car bomb outside the gates of the compound in the middle of the night. Four heavily armed insurgents opened fire on security contractors guarding the Special Forces complex, killing eight guards and breaching the facility. Sergeant McKenna was messaging with his mother at the time, and her last message to her son went unanswered.

After hearing an explosion and gunshots, he immediately grabbed his weapon and proceeded to engage the enemy alongside fellow Green Beret, Master Sergeant George Vera.

□ 1730

During the ensuing firefight, First Sergeant McKenna lost his life and Master Sergeant Vera suffered critical wounds to his spine, kidney, liver, and leg.

Their decision to charge into the fight without hesitation and regard for their own safety likely prevented the deaths of many, many soldiers stationed at that base.

First Sergeant McKenna's bravery and his ultimate sacrifice allowed supporting personnel to eliminate the Taliban attack and secure the complex.

First Sergeant McKenna was posthumously awarded the Silver Star for Valor in Combat, the Nation's third highest decoration for valor, for his courageous and lifesaving actions.

He was fearless. He was heroic. He represented the very highest examples of service, duty, and sacrifice throughout his career and on this fateful day. However, in the words of his friend, Master Sergeant Corbin: "That's just Drew. There's dozens of times he's done stuff like that."

First Sergeant McKenna was laid to rest in St. Mary's Cemetery in Bristol next to his brother, Patrick, who passed away in 2005.

He is survived by his mother and father, whom I had the honor of hosting for President Obama's final State of the Union Address.

The First Sergeant P. Andrew McKenna, Jr., Memorial Scholarship Fund, set up in his memory, awards \$6,000 in scholarships every year to Rhode Island high school students planning to attend college or serve in the Armed Forces.

Andrew McKenna was a true American hero who embodied the very best of Rhode Island values.

His patriotism, loyalty, and sense of shared purpose were reflections of his strong character and the values he learned growing up in Bristol.

I consider myself fortunate to have met First Sergeant McKenna in 2015 at the Bristol Fourth of July parade and for my continued relationship with his wonderful family.

I am proud to lead the effort here in Congress to honor First Sergeant McKenna's legacy that means so much to his family, his friends, the town of Bristol, and the State of Rhode Island.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my gratitude to Chairman GOWDY and Ranking Member CUMMINGS for their support of this bill, as well as my good friend and cosponsor of this bill, Congressman JIM LANGEVIN.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their courtesy and urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN), my good friend.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by commending my colleague from the First Congressional District of Rhode Island, Mr. CICILLINE, for sponsoring this bill in the first place.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Rhode Island hero and to support the designation of the United States Postal Service facility at 515 Hope Street in Bristol, Rhode Island, as the First Sergeant P. Andrew McKenna Jr. Post Office.

First Sergeant McKenna had served with distinction for 17 years when he was killed on August 7, 2015, during an insurgent attack on Camp Integrity in Afghanistan.

That previous summer, I had the privilege of meeting First Sergeant McKenna at the Bristol Fourth of July parade.

Mr. Speaker, he was only 35 years old, and he died running toward incoming fire, saving the lives of his fellow soldiers.

A member of the 1st Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group out of Eglin Air Force Base, First Sergeant McKenna saw six deployments, five to Afghanistan and one to Iraq, and his extraordinary service was recognized throughout.

Among his many medals are five Bronze Stars, one of which was awarded with a valor device for his actions during a mission that resulted in the death of a senior Taliban commander.

Following First Sergeant McKenna's death, he was awarded a Purple Heart and Silver Star, decorations he richly deserved.

In my time as ranking member of the Committee on Armed Services Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, I have heard the stories of many of our special operators and the heroic deeds they perform to keep us safe here at home. They are the consummate quiet professionals, never far from danger, yet shying away from the spotlight.

First Sergeant McKenna was "the best of us," his fellow Green Beret, Sergeant First Class Tim Kennedy, remarked.

He gave his life for his country, and naming the post office at 515 Hope Street in his honor is just a small way that we can thank him for his remarkable service and ensure that his memory lives on.

Mr. Speaker, again, I want to thank my colleague, Mr. CICILLINE, and our two Senators, JACK REED and SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, for coming together to offer this legislation.

First Sergeant McKenna has made his parents, Peter and Carol McKenna, his friends, the town of Bristol, and the entire State of Rhode Island extraordinarily proud.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring his courage, his service, and his sacrifice today.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I urge passage of H.R. 4685, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALMER. 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 Alabama (Mr. PALMER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4685.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

POLICE OFFICER SCOTT BASHIOM
POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 831) to designate the facility of the

United States Postal Service located at 120 West Pike Street in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, as the "Police Officer Scott Bashioum Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 831

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

SECTION 1. POLICE OFFICER SCOTT BASHIOUM POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 West Pike Street in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, shall be known and designated as the "Police Officer Scott Bashioum Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Police Officer Scott Bashioum Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members 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 Alabama?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 831, introduced by the Senator from Pennsylvania, PAT TOOMEY.

The bill would name the U.S. Post Office at 120 West Pike Street in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, in honor of Police Officer Scott Bashioum.

Officer Bashioum served 29 years in the United States Air Force, retiring as a senior master sergeant.

During his service in the Air Force, Officer Bashioum served in the Persian Gulf war, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and was part of the recovery effort in the aftermath of Hurricane Wilma.

After retiring, Officer Bashioum became a police officer for the Canonsburg community.

On November 10, 2016, he was shot and killed while responding to a domestic violence call.

I thank Senator TOOMEY for introducing this bill to pay tribute to the life and sacrifice of Officer Bashioum.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to also join my colleagues in consideration of S. 831, a bill to designate the facility of the U.S. Postal Service located at 120 West Pike Street in Canonsburg, Penn-

sylvania, as the Police Officer Scott Bashioum Post Office Building.

Scott Leslie Bashioum was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and joined the U.S. Air Force in June of 1996, as a member of the 911th Airlift Wing's Civil Engineering Squadron. Scott served in both Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Following 29 years of service in the Air Force, Senior Master Sergeant Bashioum became a full-time police officer in the Canonsburg community.

On November 10, 2016, Officer Bashioum was killed in service to his community while responding to a domestic violence call.

Mr. Speaker, we should pass this bill to commemorate the life of public service lived by Officer Scott Bashioum and honor his memory. I urge the passage of S. 831, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALMER. 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 Alabama (Mr. PALMER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 831.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

U.S. NAVY SEAMAN DAKOTA KYLE RIGSBY POST OFFICE

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3183) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13683 James Madison Highway in Palmyra, Virginia, as the "U.S. Navy Seaman Dakota Kyle Rigsby Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3183

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

SECTION 1. U.S. NAVY SEAMAN DAKOTA KYLE RIGSBY POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13683 James Madison Highway in Palmyra, Virginia, shall be known and designated as the "U.S. Navy Seaman Dakota Kyle Rigsby Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "U.S. Navy Seaman Dakota Kyle Rigsby Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALMER. 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 Alabama?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3183, introduced by the gentleman from Virginia, Representative TOM GARRETT.

H.R. 3183 names the post office at 13683 James Madison Highway in Palmyra, Virginia, after U.S. Navy Seaman Apprentice Dakota Kyle Rigsby.

Seaman Rigsby tragically lost his life on June 17, 2017, as the result of a naval accident while serving on the USS *Fitzgerald*.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GARRETT) to hear more about Seaman Rigsby's life and service.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Alabama for yielding and the gentleman from Missouri.

The Bible says: Greater love hath no man than this, to lay down his life for his brothers and sisters.

On September 12, 1997, a little boy was born to a hardworking couple and named Dakota Kyle Rigsby.

Dakota's father served in the military, and this would influence Dakota's decision to one day follow in his father's footsteps and also serve this great Nation.

Every young man and woman, and every parent who kisses a child goodbye, understands that the potential price for such a decision is to make the ultimate sacrifice for something that is bigger and greater than yourself, and on June 17, 2017, Dakota Kyle Rigsby did just that, along with six colleagues: Yeoman 3rd Class Shingo Alexander Douglass; Sonar Technician 3rd Class Ngoc Truong Huynh; Gunners Mate 2nd Class Noe Hernandez; Fire Controlman 2nd Class Carlos Victor Ganzon Sibayan; Personnel Specialist 1st Class Xavier Alec Martin; and Fire Controlman 1st Class Gary Leo Rehm, Jr.

I often joke that the United States is the worst country in the world except for all the others.

When a slave owner named Jefferson articulated an idea for the world that all people were created equal, it harkens to the preamble to the Constitution that gives us not a perfect union, but asks us to work towards a more perfect union, which means that there is always work to be done.

Mr. Speaker, this work is invariably done in most instances by women and men whose names we will never know. So we carry this bill so that one of those heroes upon the backs of whom our Nation is built will be remembered, even if only in a small place in a small way, for sacrificing every single one of his tomorrows to help us continue to be free.

□ 1745

He joins the legion of Americans numbered in the millions who have given the ultimate sacrifice. We know the name of Abraham Lincoln. We know the name of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We need to remember the names of people, heroes like Dakota Rigsby.

So this young man, devoted to service, demonstrated this from his time in high school as a volunteer firefighter to that eventful night when he executed his duties and went to bed for the day on the USS *Fitzgerald*.

I understand that there is a lot that we still need to do in this country, but please understand that we are where we are because better people than us have given all of their tomorrows for us to be here.

I would submit that when you hear that national anthem, while I would defend to my last breath your right not to stand, that you do stand. Stand up for Dakota Kyle Rigsby because, by God, he stood up for us.

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

I am pleased to join my friend from the great State of Virginia (Mr. GARETT) in urging passage of H.R. 3183, the U.S. Navy Seaman Dakota Kyle Rigsby Post Office.

The youngest servicemember killed in the collision on the USS *Fitzgerald*, Seaman Rigsby is remembered today by his family and friends for his sense of humor and true passion for public service.

Mr. Speaker, we should pass this bill to honor Seaman Rigsby's memory and service to his country.

Mr. Speaker, I want to inform the gentleman from Alabama that I have no further speakers on this bill. I urge its passage, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I have been very honored to join with the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) and my other colleagues to not only honor those named, but their families and colleagues, as well, and let them know that these heroes, their loved ones, will not be forgotten.

I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3183.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 48 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. ROGERS of Kentucky) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1119, SATISFYING ENERGY NEEDS AND SAVING THE ENVIRONMENT ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1917, BLOCKING REGULATORY INTERFERENCE FROM CLOSING KILNS ACT OF 2017

Ms. CHENEY, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 115-586) on the resolution (H. Res. 762) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1119) to establish the bases by which the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall issue, implement, and enforce certain emission limitations and allocations for existing electric utility steam generating units that convert coal refuse into energy, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1917) to allow for judicial review of any final rule addressing national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants for brick and structural clay products or for clay ceramics manufacturing before requiring compliance with such rule, 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. 3183, by the yeas and nays; and H.R. 4406, by the yeas and nays.

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

U.S. NAVY SEAMAN DAKOTA KYLE RIGSBY POST OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3183) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13683 James Madison Highway in Palmyra, Virginia, as the "U.S. Navy Seaman Dakota Kyle Rigsby Post Office", 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 Alabama (Mr. PALMER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 389, nays 0, not voting 41, as follows:

[Roll No. 92]

YEAS—389

Abraham	Davis, Rodney	Jenkins (KS)
Adams	DeGette	Johnson (GA)
Aderholt	Delaney	Johnson (OH)
Aguilar	DeLauro	Johnson, Sam
Allen	DelBene	Jones
Amash	Demings	Jordan
Amodel	Denham	Joyce (OH)
Arrington	Dent	Kaptur
Babin	DeSantis	Katko
Bacon	DeSaulnier	Keating
Banks (IN)	DesJarlais	Kelly (IL)
Barletta	Diaz-Balart	Kelly (MS)
Barr	Dingell	Kelly (PA)
Barragán	Doggett	Kennedy
Barton	Donovan	Khanna
Bass	Doyle, Michael	Kihuen
Beatty	F.	Kildee
Bera	Duncan (SC)	Kilmer
Bergman	Duncan (TN)	King (IA)
Beyer	Dunn	King (NY)
Biggs	Elison	Kinzinger
Bilirakis	Emmer	Knight
Bishop (GA)	Engel	Krishnamoorthi
Bishop (MI)	Eshoo	Kuster (NH)
Bishop (UT)	Espallat	Kustoff (TN)
Blackburn	Estes (KS)	LaHood
Blum	Esty (CT)	LaMalfa
Blunt Rochester	Evans	Lamborn
Bonamici	Farenthold	Lance
Bost	Faso	Langevin
Boyle, Brendan	Ferguson	Larsen (WA)
F.	Fitzpatrick	Larson (CT)
Brady (TX)	Fleischmann	Latta
Brat	Flores	Lawrence
Bridenstine	Fortenberry	Lawson (FL)
Brooks (AL)	Foster	Lee
Brooks (IN)	Fox	Levin
Brown (MD)	Frankel (FL)	Lewis (GA)
Brownley (CA)	Frelinghuysen	Lewis (MN)
Buchanan	Fudge	Lieu, Ted
Buck	Gaetz	Lipinski
Bucshon	Gallagher	LoBiondo
Budd	Gallego	Loeb
Burgess	Garamendi	Lofgren
Bustos	Garrett	Long
Butterfield	Gianforte	Loudermilk
Byrne	Gibbs	Love
Calvert	Gohmert	Lowenthal
Capuano	Gomez	Lowe
Carbajal	Gonzalez (TX)	Lucas
Cárdenas	Goodlatte	Luetkemeyer
Carson (IN)	Gosar	Lujan Grisham,
Carter (GA)	Gottheimer	M.
Cartwright	Gowdy	Luján, Ben Ray
Castor (FL)	Granger	Lynch
Castro (TX)	Graves (GA)	MacArthur
Chabot	Graves (LA)	Maloney,
Cheney	Graves (MO)	Carolyn B.
Chu, Judy	Green, Al	Maloney, Sean
Cicilline	Griffith	Marino
Clark (MA)	Grothman	Marshall
Clarke (NY)	Guthrie	Massie
Clay	Hanabusa	Mast
Cleaver	Handel	Matsui
Coffman	Harper	McCarthy
Cohen	Harris	McCaul
Cole	Hartzler	McClintock
Collins (GA)	Hastings	McCollum
Collins (NY)	Heck	McEachin
Comer	Hensarling	McGovern
Comstock	Herrera Beutler	McHenry
Conaway	Hice, Jody B.	McKinley
Connolly	Higgins (LA)	McMorris
Cook	Higgins (NY)	Rodgers
Cooper	Hill	McNerney
Correa	Himes	McSally
Costa	Holding	Meadows
Costello (PA)	Hollingsworth	Meehan
Courtney	Hoyer	Meeks
Crawford	Hudson	Meng
Crist	Huffman	Messer
Crowley	Huizenga	Mitchell
Cuellar	Hultgren	Moolenaar
Culberson	Hunter	Mooney (WV)
Curbelo (FL)	Hurd	Moulton
Curtis	Issa	Mullin
Davidson	Jayapal	Murphy (FL)
Davis (CA)	Jeffries	Nadler

Napolitano Roybal-Allard Taylor
 Newhouse Royce (CA) Tenney
 Noem Ruiz Thompson (CA)
 Norcross Ruppertsberger Thompson (MS)
 Norman Russell Thompson (PA)
 Nunes Rutherford Thornberry
 O'Halloran Ryan (OH) Tipton
 O'Rourke Sánchez Titus
 Palazzo Sanford Tonko
 Pallone Sarbanes Torres
 Palmer Schakowsky Trott
 Panetta Schiff Turner
 Pascrell Schneider Valadao
 Paulsen Schrader Vargas
 Payne Schweikert Velázquez
 Pelosi Scott (VA) Visclosky
 Perry Scott, Austin Wagner
 Peterson Scott, David Walberg
 Pittenger Sensenbrenner Walden
 Pocan Serrano Walker
 Poe (TX) Sessions Walorski
 Poliquin Sewell (AL) Walters, Mimi
 Posey Sherman Wasserman
 Price (NC) Shimkus Schultz
 Quigley Shuster Waters, Maxine
 Raskin Simpson Watson Coleman
 Ratcliffe Sinema Weber (TX)
 Reed Sires Webster (FL)
 Reichert Slaughter Welch
 Rice (SC) Smith (MO) Wenstrup
 Richmond Smith (NE) Westerman
 Roby Smith (NJ) Williams
 Roe (TN) Smith (TX) Wilson (FL)
 Rogers (AL) Smith (WA) Wilson (SC)
 Rogers (KY) Smucker Wittman
 Rokita Soto Womack
 Rooney, Francis Speier Woodall
 Rooney, Thomas J. Stefanik Yarmuth
 Ros-Lehtinen Stewart Yoder
 Roskam Stivers Yoho
 Ross Suozzi Young (AK)
 Rothfus Swallow (CA) Young (IA)
 Rouzer Takano Zeldin

NOT VOTING—41

Black Gutiérrez Peters
 Blumenauer Jackson Lee Pingree
 Brady (PA) Jenkins (WV) Polis
 Carter (TX) Johnson (LA) Renacci
 Clyburn Johnson, E. B. Rice (NY)
 Cramer Kind Rohrabacher
 Cummings Labrador Rosen
 Davis, Danny Marchant Rush
 DeFazio Moore Shea-Porter
 Deutch Neal Tsongas
 Duffy Nolan Veasey
 Gabbard Olson Vela
 Green, Gene Pearce Walz
 Grijalva Perlmutter

□ 1855

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TUSKEGEE AIRMAN POST OFFICE BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4406) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 99 Macombs Place in New York, New York, as the "Tuskegee Airman Post Office Building", 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 Alabama (Mr. PALMER) 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 387, nays 0, not voting 43, as follows:

[Roll No. 93]

YEAS—387

Abraham DelBene Keating
 Adams Demings Kelly (IL)
 Aderholt Denham Kelly (MS)
 Aguilera Dent Kelly (PA)
 Allen DeSantis Kennedy
 Amash DeSaulnier Khanna
 Amodei DesJarlais Kihuen
 Arrington Diaz-Balart Kildee
 Babin Dingell Kilmer
 Bacon Doggett King (IA)
 Banks (IN) Donovan King (NY)
 Barletta Doyle, Michael Kinzinger
 Barr F. Knight
 Barragán Duncan (SC) Krishnamoorthi
 Barton Duncan (TN) Kuster (NH)
 Bass Dunn Kustoff (TN)
 Beatty Ellison LaMalfa
 Bera Emmer Lamborn
 Bergman Engel Lance
 Beyer Eshoo Langevin
 Bilirakis Espallat Larsen (WA)
 Bishop (GA) Estes (KS) Larson (CT)
 Bishop (MI) Esty (CT) Latta
 Bishop (UT) Evans Lawrence
 Blackburn Farenthold Lawson (FL)
 Blum Faso Lee
 Blunt Rochester Ferguson
 Bonamici Fitzpatrick Lewis (GA)
 Bost Fleischmann Lewis (MN)
 Boyle, Brendan Flores Lieu, Ted
 F. Fortenberry Lipinski
 Foster LoBiondo
 Foxx Loeb sack
 Frankel (FL) Lofgren
 Frelinghuysen Long
 Fudge Loudermilk
 Gaetz Love
 Gallagher Lowenthal
 Gallego Lowey
 Garamendi Lucas
 Garrett Luetkemeyer
 Gianforte Lujan Grisham,
 Gibbs M.
 Gohmert Luján, Ben Ray
 Gomez Lynch
 Gonzalez (TX) MacArthur
 Goodlatte Maloney,
 Gosar Carolyn B.
 Gottheimer Maloney, Sean
 Gowdy Marino
 Granger Marshall
 Graves (GA) Massie
 Graves (LA) Mast
 Graves (MO) Matsui
 Green, Al McCarthy
 Griffith McCaul
 Grothman McClintock
 Guthrie McCollum
 Hanabusa McEachin
 Handel McGovern
 Harper McHenry
 Harris McKinley
 Hartzler McMorris
 Hastings Rodgers
 Heck McNeerney
 Hensarling McSally
 Herrera Beutler Meadows
 Hice, Jody B. Meehan
 Higgins (LA) Meeks
 Higgins (NY) Meng
 Hill Messer
 Himes Mitchell
 Holding Moolenaar
 Hollingsworth Mooney (WV)
 Hoyer Moulton
 Hudson Mullin
 Huffman Murphy (FL)
 Huizenga Nadler
 Hultgren Napolitano
 Hunter Newhouse
 Hurd Noem
 Jayapal Norcross
 Jeffries Norman
 Jenkins (KS) Nunes
 Johnson (GA) O'Halloran
 Johnson (OH) O'Rourke
 Johnson, Sam Palazzo
 Jones Pallone
 Jordan Palmer
 Joyce (OH) Panetta
 Kaptur Pascrell
 Katko Paulsen

Payne Scalise Tipton
 Pelosi Schakowsky Titus
 Perry Schiff Tonko
 Peterson Schneider Torres
 Pittenger Schrader Trott
 Pocan Schweikert Turner
 Poe (TX) Scott (VA) Upton
 Poliquin Scott, Austin Valadao
 Posey Scott, David Vargas
 Price (NC) Sensenbrenner Velázquez
 Quigley Serrano Visclosky
 Raskin Sessions Wagner
 Ratcliffe Sewell (AL) Walberg
 Reed Sherman Walden
 Reichert Shimkus Walker
 Rice (SC) Shuster Walorski
 Richmond Simpson Walters, Mimi
 Roby Sinema Wasserman
 Roe (TN) Sires Schultz
 Rogers (AL) Slaughter Waters, Maxine
 Rogers (KY) Smith (MO) Watson Coleman
 Rokita Smith (NE) Weber (TX)
 Rooney, Francis Smith (NJ) Webster (FL)
 Rooney, Thomas Smith (TX) Welch
 J. Smith (WA) Wenstrup
 Ros-Lehtinen Smucker Soto
 Roskam Soter Westernman
 Ross Speier Williams
 Rothfus Stefanik Wilson (FL)
 Rouzer Stewart Wilson (SC)
 Roybal-Allard Stivers Wittman
 Royce (CA) Suozzi Womack
 Ruiz Swallow (CA) Woodall
 Ruppertsberger Takano Yarmuth
 Russell Taylor Yoder
 Rutherford Tenney Yoho
 Ryan (OH) Thompson (CA) Young (AK)
 Sánchez Thompson (MS) Young (IA)
 Sanford Thompson (PA) Zeldin
 Sarbanes Thornberry

NOT VOTING—43

Black Issa Peters
 Blumenauer Jackson Lee Pingree
 Brady (PA) Jenkins (WV) Polis
 Carter (TX) Johnson (LA) Renacci
 Clyburn Johnson, E. B. Rice (NY)
 Cramer Kind Rohrabacher
 Cummings Labrador Rosen
 Davis, Danny LaHood Rush
 DeFazio Marchant Shea-Porter
 Deutch Moore Tsongas
 Duffy Neal Veasey
 Gabbard Nolan Vela
 Green, Gene Olson Walz
 Grijalva Pearce
 Gutiérrez Perlmutter

□ 1904

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 99 Macombs Place in New York, New York, as the 'Tuskegee Airman Post Office Building'."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PINECREST, PALMETTO BAY, AND CUTLER BAY RELAY FOR LIFE

(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 today in support of the upcoming 2018 Pinecrest, Palmetto Bay, and Cutler Bay Relay for Life.

On March 17, friends, families, neighbors, and community leaders from my congressional district will gather together to remember lost loved ones, to honor survivors, and to raise money for a cause that has affected too many in our community and around the Nation.

Sadly, in 2018 alone, over 1.7 million Americans will be diagnosed with cancer and more than 600,000 individuals will lose the battle against this dreadful disease.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, Relay for Life is such an important event to raise awareness and funds to help cancer patients and their families in my area of south Florida.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the countless volunteers and local sponsors who are going to make this wonderful day possible, a day filled with activities, games, and fun.

Let us all join together to make a difference in the fight against cancer and make this year's Relay for Life the best one yet.

COMBATING GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, since the tragic events at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, leading American companies, including DICK'S Sporting Goods, Walmart, L.L.Bean, and Kroger, have taken a leadership role in combating gun violence.

Last week, all four companies announced that they would no longer sell guns to anyone under 21.

DICK'S Sporting Goods has demonstrated singular courage as the first company to establish a minimum age for gun sales and also by announcing that it would no longer sell assault-style rifles or high-capacity magazines.

When DICK'S announced these policies, it also challenged Congress to show the same commitment to commonsense gun reform. In his open letter, DICK'S Sporting Goods' CEO Ed Stack implored Congress to ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, establish the age of 21 as the new minimum age to buy a firearm, and secure an effective universal background check system.

The American business community is already acting to combat gun violence. The private sector is ahead of us. Congress must follow suit.

PERMANENT STATUS FOR LIBERIANS IN DEFERRED ENFORCED DEPARTURE

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my support as a cosponsor of the Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act, which gives Liberians in deferred enforced departure permanent status.

Thousands of Liberians came to the United States to escape civil war, seeking a better life and a safer environment to raise their families. For the last 25 years, many have sought and re-

alized the American Dream through hard work, drive, and determination. They have become small-business owners and leaders in our community. Minnesota is home to one of the largest Liberian communities in the United States, many of whom live in the western suburbs of the Twin Cities.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the distinct pleasure and honor of getting to know many members of the Liberian community personally. I have heard their stories, and I have seen their love for America firsthand. However, they are facing uncertainty today because their temporary period of protection is about to expire, so it is imperative that action be taken to ensure they are able to live here, work here, and continue to offer their contributions as important members of our community.

SUPPORTING DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS

(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, 6 months ago, the White House shamefully rescinded the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program without having legislation in place to protect Dreamers. That is just wrong.

The overwhelming majority of Americans support a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, yet Republican leadership refuses to let Congress vote on a clean Dream Act.

A few months ago, after ending DACA, the President began rolling back immigration from Black and Latino countries he thinks are s—holes. After that, he went on a Twitter rant to attack the Diversity Immigrant Visa program, which helps people from Africa immigrate lawfully to the United States.

Eliminating DACA without a plan for Dreamers is just another antiminority move. Removing the Diversity Immigrant Visa program is more of the same. The administration has shown itself to be hostile to people of color. Mr. Speaker, racism is not a good policy.

REMEMBERING OFFICER JUSTIN BILLA

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

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Mobile Police Officer Justin Billa. Officer Billa was tragically shot and killed in the line of duty on February 20.

I am not sure my path ever crossed with Officer Billa, but it may have. We take for granted the work our police officers do on a daily basis.

Police officers hug their families good-bye and leave their home each day or night not knowing whether they will come home safe.

Each and every day, our law enforcement and first responders work to keep

us safe and support our communities, but we far too often take their service for granted.

I can think of no better way to honor the life of Officer Billa than to encourage every American to take time to say "thank you" to your local police officers.

Mr. Speaker, I hope Officer Billa's wife, Erin, and their young son, Taylor, take comfort in knowing that they are loved. Justin's service and sacrifice to Mobile, Alabama, and to the United States will never be forgotten.

□ 1915

YUCCA MOUNTAIN NUCLEAR WASTE REPOSITORY IS AN UNWORKABLE PROJECT

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I am here to once again remind my colleagues why the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository is an unworkable project. There are design flaws that the NRC's own analysis show lead to radioactive waste leaking into the water table, and transportation plans would ship more than 70,000 metric tons of nuclear waste by train and truck through 329 congressional districts for years to come past your homes, your businesses, your schools, and your churches.

Now some of my colleagues want to make this bad situation even worse by busting the caps on the amount of allowable waste to be stored, increasing the danger and invalidating any existing studies.

If the proponents of Yucca Mountain and their industry donors are really serious about solving the problems of nuclear waste storage, they would follow the Blue Ribbon Commission's recommendations and pass my consent-based bill rather than dumping nuclear waste into a State that does not produce it and does not want it.

Nevada is not a wasteland.

POSITIVE EFFECTS OF THE TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the positive effects the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is already having on individuals and businesses in the First Congressional District of Georgia.

Two weeks ago, I traveled the First District and visited high school students, university students, senior citizens, small businesses, big businesses, and more to get their feedback on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. The results from my trip and the benefits that the First District is already reaping were, frankly, astounding.

For example, Lee Container Company in Homerville said that the new tax law has allowed them to purchase at least three machines a year and to fully amortize them, allowing their company to grow at a substantial rate.

Businesses like Lee Container and the large number of individuals in Homerville that they employ are a reason it was so important to pass the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

With the new tax law, businesses can employ more people, increase salaries, invest in their business and communities, and help our economy to thrive.

OUR NATION IS IN THE GRIP OF A GUN VIOLENCE EPIDEMIC

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, our Nation is in the grip of a gun violence epidemic; yet, even in the face of national tragedy, Congress has failed again and again to act.

On January 10, 2018, a student in Denison, Texas, fired a weapon that belonged to an adviser, thinking it wasn't loaded. That same day, a middle school student in Maplewood, Minnesota, fatally injured himself with a gun in a school bathroom.

On January 23, 2018, a 15-year-old student in Benton, Kentucky, opened fire with a handgun, killing two people and injuring 18.

On February 14, Valentine's Day, 2018, a 19-year-old gunman killed 14 students and 3 faculty members at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, using a semiautomatic weapon.

Two months into 2018, its tragedies are too numerous to list.

For too long we have allowed NRA's gun industry lobbyists to pick and choose our guns laws.

I say: No more.

Students across America are demanding Congress enact commonsense gun violence prevention, including universal background checks, limits on high-capacity magazines, and a ban on the sale of assault weapons designed not for a hunting field, but for a battlefield.

We must not fail them again.

RECOGNIZING CLINTON COUNTY'S MISS TEEN UNITED STATES AGRICULTURE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Haili Marie Frank from Mill Hall, Pennsylvania, who has been named Clinton County's Miss Teen United States Agriculture.

Haili is 16 years old and is the daughter of Eric and Clint Frank.

She is a 10th grader at the Sugar Valley Rural Charter School, where she is

a member of the National Honor Society and an officer in the school's FFA chapter.

In 2017, Haili competed in the FFA Creed Speaking competition, placing first in the county and second in the region, which qualified her for the State competition, where she came in 10th.

Haili loves animals and is a member of two 4-H groups. Over the past 7 years, Haili has exhibited pigs, goats, lambs, chickens, and rabbits.

Haili is also an accomplished archer and shoots with one of her 4-H groups. Last August, she competed in the archery competition at State Days in Rock Run, Pennsylvania, and placed second in her age division.

Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly congratulate Haili on being an outstanding role model for her peers and a representative for agriculture in Pennsylvania.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN PROJECT

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

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that my colleagues plan to speak in favor of Yucca Mountain tonight and once again attempt to revive the long-dead project that brings nuclear waste to my State of Nevada. They want to make Nevada's Fourth Congressional District, my home, my district, the dumping ground for the rest of the country's nuclear waste.

The Nevada delegation has raised a number of concerns about this project, including its location, which sits less than 100 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

Nevadans have strongly opposed the construction of this project.

As a State with no nuclear energy facilities, it is exceedingly unfair that Nevada is asked to serve as the dumping ground for the rest of the country's waste.

Rather than throw away millions more of taxpayer money to revive this shortsighted project, this funding could be better spent on infrastructure and job creation.

I will continue fighting tirelessly to ensure the Yucca Mountain project stays dead, and I urge my colleagues to join me in finding better ways to deal with the nuclear waste created in their States.

THE RUSSIAN BEAR IS HUNGRY FOR MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, AND UKRAINE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, after the fall of the Soviet Union, the Russian bear started roaming Eastern Europe with its hungry appetite to gobble and dominate politics and the Governments of Moldova, Georgia, and Ukraine.

Each nation has had a portion of its sovereign territory occupied by the Napoleon of Siberia, Putin. His military is there, too.

I have been in each nation and talked to the speakers of each of the parliaments. Now the three countries are working together in a trilateral bond to thwart Russian interference and also improve their democratic processes.

For as it is written in Ecclesiastes: "A cord of three strands is not easily broken."

I also commend the Atlantic Council for their work with these nations in promoting democratic ideals, combating corruption, and increasing personal freedom.

The United States should encourage and support this trilateral union to prevent the hungry bear from eating up each nation and returning them to the old days of Russian oppression.

And that is just the way it is.

PI KAPPA ALPHA'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor tonight to recognize and honor my fraternity, Pi Kappa Alpha International Fraternity.

I came from Alpha Omicron Chapter in Georgetown, Texas, Southwestern University.

Pi Kappa Alpha is an international fraternity, a values-based men's fraternal organization with more than 225 chapters across the United States and Canada, approximately 16,000 undergraduate members, and over 290,000 lifetime members.

In 2018, Pi Kappa Alpha celebrates its 150th anniversary from its founding on March 1, 1868, at the University of Virginia, when six young men joined together and resolved to form a fraternity for the establishment of friendship on a firmer and more lasting basis.

Their commitment to the high ideals of scholarship, leadership, and gentlemanly behavior remains strong to this day, which is the reason why I not only pledged my support to the fraternity, but why I support them today.

APPOINTING JUDGES TO THE FISA COURT

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

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, the President of the United States should have the power to appoint judges to the FISA Court. This would lead to a more ideologically diverse court, more transparency in oversight, and better FISA outcomes.

Mr. Speaker, this isn't just my argument. It is the argument of the gentleman from California, the ranking

member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; and this is the gentleman from California making that very argument on Russia Today.

Here, YouTube has actually had to say:

Russia Today is funded in whole or in part by the Russian Government.

So my question is this, Mr. Speaker: If it is good enough for a bill to be filed by the gentleman from California in 2013, and if it is good enough to talk about it on Russia Today, why is it not good enough to give President Trump the very same powers that he wanted to give to President Obama?

That is my question. I am waiting for an answer.

FIXING OUR BROKEN NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

THE SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARSHALL). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to start by yielding to the chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, Mr. WALDEN.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the Environment Subcommittee, my friend, Mr. SHIMKUS, who has worked tirelessly—not just this year, not just last year, but probably since the first year he came to Congress—to try and find a permanent solution to the storage of nuclear waste in America. He has been a tireless worker in this endeavor, a smart worker in this endeavor, and a successful, so far, worker in this endeavor, as this bill passed out of the committee 49-4.

I rise tonight to address this pressing national need, and that is the importance of fixing our broken nuclear waste management program.

It was more than 35 years ago that the United States Congress made a commitment to communities throughout our Nation which host spent nuclear fuel and nuclear waste. Congress, the Federal Government, agreed to assign the Department of Energy with the responsibility to permanently dispose of hazardous material, nuclear waste, by 1998.

There are many of those communities, like in the Tri-Cities in Washington State, co-located with the Department of Energy's Hanford site just up Columbia River, across the river from where I live and the people I represent. We have been DOE's partner to help win World War II at that site. It has maintained a nuclear weapon deterrent and powered our fleet of nuclear submarines and aircraft carriers.

Additionally, electricity consumers in many other communities have paid the Federal Government more than \$40 billion to develop, license, construct, and operate a nuclear waste repository. They have already paid \$40 billion to do this, and that was pursuant to the Nu-

clear Waste Policy Act, the law that Congress enacted. Yet rate payers have little to see for their investment because, I will call it political science, has deprived the public of the actual science to prove that nuclear waste can be safely and permanently disposed of.

As a consequence of this political interference, taxpayers and rate payers across the country are on the hook for DOE's inaction. The American people pay over \$2 million every day to temporarily store used fuel scattered throughout the United States. So it is up to us to fix this waste management program and stop this cost that will continue in perpetuity if we don't act.

Now, after hearing from dozens of expert witnesses over many years, the Energy and Commerce Committee developed and passed a bipartisan bill by a vote of 49-4. Mr. SHIMKUS led our effort in this measure.

This legislation makes targeted reforms to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 to set the Federal Government up to finally, finally, keep its promise.

Nuclear waste challenges have vexed policymakers for generations.

We, this Congress, have the chance now in a bipartisan way to successfully build a durable solution. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to achieve that goal, which brings about tonight's Special Order.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I just want to show something. This is a piece of glass. This is not actually nuclear waste. The Pacific Northwest National Lab, when I visited Hanford a little while back with Secretary Perry, gave me this because it is an example of what the liquid waste, the waste at Hanford, will end up being.

□ 1930

It will look like this in a big cylinder. It is glass. This is what would go to Hanford, and it would be stored safely when that occurs.

If we don't have a repository, these nuclear wastes, in their various forms, will sit around in various locations, not nearly as safe or secure as we can have with the kind of legislation fully enacted that Mr. SHIMKUS has led on. So I thank Mr. SHIMKUS for his leadership on this. And I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their encouragement, their participation, their counsel. We are going to get this thing done.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my chairman, the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN), who has actually been a pretty big leader in this issue because of Oak Ridge and the area that he represents.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to be before the House of Representatives this evening, and I want to thank Chairman SHIMKUS.

When I came to Congress in 2011, I didn't know many people, and one

night I had the privilege of meeting JOHN SHIMKUS from the great State of Illinois. I told him I was from Tennessee, and we started talking. And right away we talked about Yucca Mountain. We talked about nuclear waste, and I told him that I was going to be representing a very special place: Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

So let me start by thanking Chairman JOHN SHIMKUS. He has been the hero for the Yucca Mountain project. He has worked tirelessly. He has seen this through the courts. He has seen it through the House. He has worked so hard. I thank him for his efforts.

Oak Ridge, Tennessee, it is a beautiful place. I represent the Third District of Tennessee: Oak Ridge, where we had the Manhattan Project, where we won World War II; Oak Ridge, where we won the Cold War; Oak Ridge, where we have worked tirelessly to build our Nation's nuclear arsenal, and today we are still advocating to do that, to keep America strong—great men and women.

But Oak Ridge, like many other places around the Nation—Savannah River, Portsmouth, Hanford—years ago, ladies and gentlemen, when we manufactured our nuclear weapons, we were not as safe and secure as we are today. There was an immediacy. There was a need during World War II to get the bomb built, and we did it in Oak Ridge, and it ended World War II.

But for years thereafter, we were not as safe at many of these venues. What does that mean? That means that legacy wastes were left in communities: sometimes in the soil, sometimes in the water, sometimes in facilities. And what that means is that the Federal Government has a duty to these communities to clean this waste up. And this waste has to go somewhere.

Now, Chairman SHIMKUS, and we have heard from Chairman WALDEN—for those of you who are listening tonight, they are authorizers. They authorize the law. I sit on the Appropriations Committee. That is the committee in Congress that authorizes the spending for this.

I am the chairman of the Nuclear Cleanup Caucus. That is how passionate I am about cleaning up nuclear waste not only in Oak Ridge, Tennessee; Savannah River; or Hanford, but all over these great United States, because we owe this to the American people.

The Federal Government caused this problem; the Federal Government needs to clean this up. It is the ultimate, I think, in environmental advocacy. This is something that Republicans and Democrats, Members of the House and Members of the Senate, usually agree upon; and we have worked together in this very important caucus.

Why is it important that we pass the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2017? Because, first of all, we owe it to the American people. The Department of Energy does a good job in cleanup, but this will revise their programs. It will give what Congress

should do, give direction to a Federal agency. So, as we advocate for dollars to clean up the nuclear waste, we need this key authorization bill to give it structure, to give it purpose.

So, in the end, Yucca is critically important—critically important. And I know the people in these affected communities want Yucca Mountain. That is the interesting thing about it. They want it because they realize it is critically important that we store the waste there: it is important for America; it is important for our environment; it is important to these communities; and it is long overdue.

So I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to please work to support H.R. 3053, the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2017, and I thank Chairman SHIMKUS.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Tennessee for his comments, and I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman SHIMKUS, as well, for continuing to bring light to the broken promise the Federal Government made to our communities.

The State of Minnesota is home to three nuclear reactors, two of which are at the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant in my district. Located directly adjacent to the Prairie Island Indian Reservation and the city of Red Wing, the plant has stored spent nuclear fuel on site since the 1970s. While this is done in a very safe and highly secure manner, storage in close proximity to large communities is simply not appropriate.

In 1982, Congress agreed and made it clear that they wanted the Federal Government to oversee and manage the storage of spent fuel. Congress did not want to put the burden and oversight of maintaining safe nuclear storage on our local communities. The Nuclear Waste Policy Act was adopted, and the Federal Government was tasked with creating a national Federal repository for used fuel.

The Federal Government began collecting taxes on all users of nuclear power. In the end, my constituents, businesses, and Americans throughout the country have paid roughly \$40 billion in taxes and interest.

In 1995, due to the inaction at the Federal level, the plant in my district was forced to take matters into their own hands. While they continued to help fund a repository, they also invested in and began operating a dry cask storage area, a pad on site that could hold up to 48 casks of fuel.

Now, that should have been more than enough to cover their needs until the Federal Government finished their job. Today, Prairie Island is home to 40 casks, with 7 more expected to be filled by 2020.

Thirty-six years after the passage of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, we still have no repository. Prairie Island now has to go through the process of planning to expand their dry cask facilities

in order to accommodate fuel they paid the Federal Government to dispose of.

So I strongly support the efforts of Chairman SHIMKUS, and that is why I cosponsored the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2017. We owe it to our communities to follow through on our promise to provide a safe place for storage.

Meanwhile, it isn't just our local communities that are impacted by this inaction. When Congress passed a budget last year, I worked to point out that the Federal Government had assumed major liabilities associated with its failure to provide safe and environmentally friendly storage. The GAO recently reported that the Federal Government's environmental liability alone is nearly \$450 billion and growing.

At the same time, the funds collected from taxpayers to open a repository have begun being diverted to other payout settlements and judgments based on our broken promise. By the end of fiscal year 2016, \$6.1 billion had been paid out, with the Department of Energy estimating another \$25 billion to follow.

It is time to keep our promise. Our communities expect it, and the Federal Government cannot afford not to do so. Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge passage of the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Minnesota and appreciate him spending this evening with us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER).

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening in support of America's nuclear energy industry. Today, America leads the world in nuclear energy production and technological advancement. However, the industry faces unique challenges that prevent us from reaching our full potential when it comes to nuclear energy.

So I thank Mr. SHIMKUS for hosting this Special Order which gives us a chance to shed light on some of these issues.

Over in the Science, Space, and Technology Committee's Energy Subcommittee, we talk a lot about nuclear energy R&D as critical for the United States' national security and energy dominance. Through our numerous meetings over the course of several years, we have put forth multiple bills which will implement long-term R&D investments that will spur American competitiveness and keep us at the forefront of nuclear energy technology. We will need waste sites.

My bill, the Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act, actually provides important policy direction for the Department of Energy Office of Nuclear Energy. First, it provides DOE with statutory directions to leverage its supercomputing infrastructure for modeling and simulation capabilities

to develop advanced fission and fusion reactors. Second, this legislation provides DOE with statutory direction to use its authority to enable the national labs to partner with the private sector to construct and operate reactor prototypes at DOE sites and to leverage expertise from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Because nuclear reactors are so expensive and so highly regulated, designing first-of-a-kind reactors requires a blend of creative freedom for engineers testing new designs but assurance of safety throughout that process. DOE sites, particularly the DOE national laboratories, can provide a unique environment that safely allows for this kind of creative testing and development for advanced nuclear technology.

Finally, the bill lays out a clear timeline and statutory guidance for DOE to complete a research reactor that will allow for materials and fuels R&D to take place right here in the United States. Currently, this type of research, which requires access to fast neutrons, is only accessible for civilian use in Russia. While modeling and simulation can accelerate R&D, this research must ultimately be validated through a physical source. The versatile neutron source in this bill will enable this vital research.

Last month, my bill, which contains funding for this important research reactor, the Nuclear Energy Research Infrastructure Act, passed this House unanimously. While we at the Science Committee have been working hard on developing the infrastructure for nuclear research and development, I am thankful Mr. SHIMKUS is finding a long-term solution to our current challenges with spent nuclear waste. His bill takes an important step forward in authorizing private and interim storage of spent nuclear fuel, while still allowing the Federal Government to responsibly develop a permanent repository for spent nuclear fuel.

I applaud Mr. SHIMKUS and the Energy and Commerce Committee's bipartisan effort to find a productive, constructive answer to this pressing issue. Together, we will ensure that America's nuclear energy continues to lead the world.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Texas for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, before I introduce the next speaker, I want to highlight that, in the days when people say we don't work together, there is no bipartisanship shown, I just want to remind folks that this bill came out of our committee 49-4. It has 108 cosponsors, many Democrats on there.

So, with that, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. CARBAJAL), a new Member of Congress who has been very active and whom I have been proud to get to know.

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman SHIMKUS for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago, Pacific Gas and Electric Company announced its

decision not to relicense the two nuclear reactors at the Diablo Canyon Power Plant in San Luis Obispo County. The plant has been a key economic engine in my district, employing around 1,500 people and powering more than 1.7 million homes in central and northern California.

As our community works together to mitigate the economic impacts of this closure, I am committed to helping secure the central coast's dominance as a hub for renewable energy development. That is why I am introducing legislation later this month that creates renewable energy incentives to offset the loss of jobs and revenue resulting from the Diablo Canyon closure.

In addition to economic stability, our community also needs certainty of responsible management and safe storage of nuclear waste after the plant's closure. The Diablo Canyon Power Plant was built against a seaside cliff near Avila Beach, where it was discovered that its reactors are in proximity to earthquake fault lines. Without a long-term solution, Diablo Canyon would become a de facto storage facility for radioactive nuclear waste and would hinder our ability to repurpose any of the scenic coastline where the power plant currently sits.

Currently, spent nuclear fuel sits across 39 States in 121 communities, including San Luis Obispo County.

□ 1945

We need a permanent geologic repository to store waste that will last far beyond our lifetimes. Congress must establish responsible interim storage solutions, while continuing to work towards establishing a safe and secure national repository for spent fuel.

H.R. 3053 is a good bipartisan solution to establish a process and outline next steps for interim and permanent storage solutions. With the impending decommissioning of Diablo Canyon, it is vital that we act to find a storage solution. I will continue to work to grow business in our area, remove spent fuel safely, and keep our communities safe and thriving as the Diablo Canyon decommissioning moves forward.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague.

So we have heard from Oregon, Tennessee, Minnesota, and then from California. Now I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his work on this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3053, the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act. Spent nuclear fuel currently sits in 121 communities across 39 States, simply because we lack a permanent geological repository to dispose of the waste. That is why I am proud to join my colleagues as a cosponsor of H.R. 3053, which would enact critical reforms to our nuclear waste management strategy.

Back home, in Georgia's 12th, we are leading the way in the expansion of our

Nation's nuclear energy resources. My district is the proud home of every nuclear reactor in the State, with an additional two reactors under construction at Plant Vogtle. Nuclear energy is Georgia's most reliable power source and provides over 6,000 high-skilled jobs, many of which are filled by my constituents in Georgia's 12th. But without a permanent solution, nuclear waste remains on those sites.

Now is the time for Congress to act on fulfilling our obligation to dispose of the spent nuclear fuel sitting in our States. I thank the Energy and Commerce Committee for passing this important legislation, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this important bill.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for his comments. I now yield to the gentleman from the State of California (Mr. MCNERNEY), a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, a good friend, also.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. SHIMKUS for yielding. We work together on nuclear waste. I have been to the Yucca Mountain site, and I have seen the work that has gone on there.

But, first of all, I just want to say there are a lot of issues out there that we are dealing with here in Congress; so how important is nuclear waste? I mean, we have got the gun issue; we have climate change; we have the economy; we want to create jobs; trade. I mean, there are a lot of issues; so how important is nuclear waste? I mean, it has been festering for decades—for decades—so how urgent is it?

You know, we haven't had a major accident yet, but there are tens of thousands of tons of high-level nuclear waste sitting in relatively exposed conditions, so what could possibly go wrong? I mean, high-level nuclear waste is so radioactive that it emits heat. It emits an immense amount of heat. So we could—I will give you a couple of things that could go wrong.

The waste could be commandeered and then made into weapons. It doesn't have to be made into a nuclear fission bomb. It could be made into a dirty bomb. Just put a bunch of nuclear waste with explosive material in some city and that city would be uninhabitable for the rest of our lifetimes, for sure.

There also could be waste leakage. We have nuclear waste sitting on the banks of the Missouri River. We have nuclear waste, tons and tons of nuclear waste, high-level nuclear waste, sitting a quarter mile from the Columbia River, and this is pretty serious stuff. And my friend from Illinois, my colleague from Illinois, I am sure, will tell us about nuclear waste that is on the Great Lakes ready to go. So we have a problem. We have been pretty darn lucky so far.

You know, I worked as a graduate student. I was a graduate student in mathematics. I worked for an engineering professor to study the nuclear

waste project at WIPP, a waste isolation pilot project near Carlsbad, New Mexico, and I can tell you the technical solutions are there. Nuclear waste can be safely engineered for tens of thousands of years, as long as it needs to be stored. Transportation can be done safely. I have seen train cars that are designed to hold high-level nuclear waste slammed into concrete walls with no damage to the interior of the car.

This stuff can be done. It is not an engineering problem. I mean, the engineering and the geological solutions are there if we put our minds to making it happen. It can be done in engineering.

However, nuclear waste is a political problem, and it hasn't been managed so far. The politics of the Yucca Mountain waste project were very badly managed from the very beginning. A successful nuclear waste storage project will need complete transparency from the very beginning with the local community. There will always be some amount of opposition, but without local buy-in, the project is going to fail. Local buy-in is absolutely essential. This can be done if there is complete transparency, if the local people understand what the risks are and what the benefits are. This can be done.

Mr. Speaker, we need to devote the resources to finding a permanent solution to nuclear waste. Meanwhile, H.R. 3053, the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2017 is a step, a very important step in the right direction.

I want to thank my colleague from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) who has worked on this tirelessly for year after year. I know that some people think that he has gone too far in Nevada, but, nonetheless, if we work together and can become transparent, maybe Nevada will never accept nuclear waste, but we have to find a permanent storage solution that can be done. This is a step in the right direction, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3053 and give this legislation fair and honest consideration.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague for his comments, and I will pull up a chart later on to show that the five surrounding counties have all passed resolutions in support of Yucca Mountain, and there are recent numbers from the northern part of the State that show a very positive movement as far as the acceptance, as long as we show there is a science. And now I will address that in a later discourse.

I want to thank my colleague for joining us. I now yield to the gentleman from the State of Georgia (Mr. CARTER), another member from the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my good friend and chairman of the Subcommittee on Environment's legislation, the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2017.

This legislation is important, not only because of what it means for the future of clean energy opportunities for this country, but also what this means for the safety of our communities. Nuclear energy has become a safe and effective way to generate large amounts of energy capability, while maintaining a source that doesn't produce greenhouse gas emissions.

We have come a long way from Three Mile Island and the safety standards in place to ensure our communities and our grid aren't negatively impacted by nuclear energy. The Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act would finally put in place a permanent repository for the waste generated by energy production that powers millions of homes and businesses across the United States.

As of December, there were 61 nuclear power plants in the United States with 99 operating nuclear reactors. Those nuclear plants provide nearly 20 percent of the country's energy production capability. This is significant because these plants have continued to provide reliable flows of energy for decades, giving Americans a carbon-free source of energy to fuel their consumption.

But one thing hasn't been addressed: what to do with that spent fuel. We began a process in the 1980s to seek and construct a permanent repository for the Nation's spent fuel, eventually coming to Yucca Mountain in Nevada. This site was decided upon, due to its geological features, and extensively studied to ensure it could be done in a safe and effective manner.

Millions of dollars were spent studying and doing initial project development of the site, but it was eventually halted, and that progress was stalled. While this was going on, ratepayers in 39 States continued to pay towards the cleanup fund for a total of nearly \$40 billion. However, that money hasn't been able to be put towards a permanent repository due to resistance.

In Georgia, at Plant Vogtle, we are currently undergoing the only nuclear energy construction project in the country, in large part because of issues that have deterred companies from wanting to expand. That means that people are losing out on energy production, and it actually creates clean energy.

My good friend's legislation authorizes the disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste to find a safe, permanent place in contrast to the temporary locations at each nuclear plant. It also authorizes a consolidated interim storage site to ensure there is an option available for the eventual transition.

This is something that needs to get done, and soon. Right now, spent fuel is sitting on site in either dry casks or spent fuel pools without an alternative. Now is the time for us to pass this bipartisan legislation and recognize that we have carbon-neutral energy sources in place, and have for decades, but we

need to get this across the finish line to support our communities and our country.

I urge my colleagues to support the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act because it will give the United States the chance to, once again, be a global leader on our nuclear energy and to secure our communities. I thank the gentleman for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Georgia for his comments, and now I yield to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) for his strong work, his positive statements, and his reaching out so that we could have a national solution to a national problem.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. SHIMKUS for yielding. Again, I am here tonight to join a bunch of my colleagues to speak in strong support of H.R. 3053, the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2017, which Mr. SHIMKUS has skillfully guided through the Energy and Commerce Committee, again, a 49-4 vote on a committee which basically is challenged, in many instances, with other issues from healthcare and energy policy, you name it.

It is really just an amazing accomplishment on his part dealing with one of the thorniest, toughest issues, which, again, has been out there for 30 years, which is, again, how we, as a nation, deal with the tons of nuclear waste that is now piled up and accumulating in over 100 communities around the country.

Again, I represent the Second District of Connecticut, the eastern half of the State, which has two operating nuclear facilities. One has been decommissioned, the old Connecticut Yankee facility, which sits very close to the Connecticut River. Again, it has been closed for over a decade. The plant itself has been cut up, dismantled. It is now pretty much, you know, just overgrown with vegetation. But still sitting there is dry cask nuclear spent fuel rods, which, again, are being patrolled every single day, literally, as we are here tonight, by heavily armed guards, which makes perfect sense, because, as has been said by other speakers, again, this is still very dangerous material, and again, very close to one of the largest bodies of waters in new England, the Connecticut River.

We also have the Dominion nuclear power plant in Waterford, Connecticut, which today is in full operation. Over 45 percent of the energy consumed in the State of Connecticut is generated at Dominion. It is about 15 percent of New England, because, again, it provides a supply for the rest of the region that is there, and again, this is a plant that goes back decades.

We are also the home of the Groton sub base, which is a base where, again, we have 15 attack subs that are deployed there. Again, the Groton sub base was where the USS *Nautilus* was launched 62 years ago. Admiral Rickover, the father of the nuclear Navy,

actually designed that first sub, which was christened by Mamie Eisenhower.

Again, that sub was built 5 years after the first lightbulb was powered by nuclear power as a nation; again, a pretty amazing accomplishment that Admiral Rickover was able to build and launch a nuclear submarine, something which the folks at the Navy at the time told him wouldn't happen for 75 years. Yet, today, the nuclear force, both in terms of submarines and carriers, are the backbone, again, of our away team, the U.S. Navy.

So, again, we have a lot of history and experience with the fact that we have got really smart capable people who do amazing things in terms of providing the energy needs but also the national security of this country. But, as has been said, again, a byproduct of that is that nuclear waste which we thought 30 years ago was going to be dealt with with the decision that Congress made to dispose of nuclear waste in a central facility in Nevada that, again, ratepayers have paid year in and year out, \$40 billion, as was mentioned earlier, but today is still immobilized.

So, again, Mr. SHIMKUS' effort, in terms of trying to not just restart the process but also to reform it, again, is such an extraordinary effort that really we, as a House, should really take advantage of and move on a bipartisan basis to enact.

□ 2000

This is not your father's Yucca Mountain bill that Mr. SHIMKUS got through. It made some changes for fairness in terms of ratepayers. It also created more transparency so that local stakeholders in Nevada will have an opportunity to really help make decisions and see and understand the technology that is being employed there.

It also set up an interim process, which, again, if it is over decades, which it is still going to take, that we can at least start moving material out from these over 100 sites situated all across the country, which is so important in terms of reducing costs and reducing national security risk.

His proposal, I think, deserves great support and, frankly, congratulations that he has been able to take this on.

I would note that the country of Finland has actually started to move forward with their own waste disposal site, the Onkalo Peninsula Depository, which a country that is very progressive in terms of a lot of its policies, but that have shown that the technology is there to safely deposit nuclear waste in a way that has real confidence and is moving forward. We should do it, too.

Again, H.R. 3053 is, I think, the roadmap for this country to deal with this problem in a way that is safe, is transparent, and will reduce costs for ratepayers all across the country.

I look forward to seeing a vote take place very soon on the floor of the House. And then, frankly, I look forward to a bill signing ceremony at the White House, where Mr. SHIMKUS

should certainly take a front row seat for his great work.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for his remarks. I am glad he brought up the debate and the discussion on the nuclear Navy, because that is really a key part of this debate.

The nuclear-use fuel for our nuclear fleet is, by law, directed to be housed at Yucca Mountain.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, may I just make one last point to really underscore that?

Mr. Speaker, I am on the Armed Services Committee, and we are in the midst of moving forward with a 355-ship Navy.

If you look at the force architecture that is going to be in that growth, it is almost all concentrated in submarines and carriers. The fact of the matter is that the challenge of waste disposal for our national defense and national security is going to be with us for many, many years.

To comment again, the gentleman's proposal is a way for us to deal with that and strengthen our Navy and our national defense.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN), a colleague, a new member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, but no stranger to this issue and this debate.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for holding this Special Order hour to talk about a very critical policy and issue for our country.

Mr. Speaker, nuclear energy is a critical component of the United States' energy matrix. It is no secret that I am passionate about energy independence and nuclear energy as an essential, emission-free, domestic source of electricity.

As we create nuclear energy, we also create nuclear waste. In my district, the Oconee Nuclear Station run by Duke Energy in Oconee County, South Carolina, has 40 years' worth of nuclear waste sitting at the site. Without a permanent geological repository, nuclear waste will continue to pile up at reactors in South Carolina and all across the Nation.

There is currently estimated to be about 4,500 tons of spent nuclear fuel in temporary storage in South Carolina from commercial reactors.

Furthermore, there are more than 10,000 tons of military and research nuclear waste at the Savannah River site, just outside my district.

Nuclear waste sits idle and is stored in dry casks and wet pools in 121 communities across 39 States. It is imperative that we pass Chairman SHIMKUS' legislation, the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act, to reform our country's nuclear waste policy and utilize Yucca Mountain as our main point of nuclear storage.

Having nuclear waste dispersed across the country and close to highly

populated areas makes zero sense, and is an unnecessary and avoidable risk.

The depository at Yucca Mountain, after decades of research, has been independently verified to safely dispose of spent nuclear fuel for a million years. It is the law of the land. It is a perfect site for this.

We as a country need to embrace the law of the land. It is a long-term stable storage facility at Yucca Mountain in Nevada. After all the scientific research and money taken from ratepayers, it is time to move forward.

It is sad that this project has been mothballed because of politics and has been used as a political football at the expense of the American ratepayers.

What do I mean by American ratepayers paying for this?

U.S. ratepayers have already paid the Federal Government over \$40 billion to develop Yucca Mountain, and currently all U.S. taxpayers are paying over \$2 million a day because we have not yet fulfilled our legal obligations. Ratepayers are quite literally paying something for nothing.

Ratepayers in my State of South Carolina have already paid \$1.3 billion in fees, which were intended to pay for a functioning Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository. Ratepayers in other States which utilize nuclear commercial energy have paid billions more.

It is time to put politics aside. Authorize what Congress has already approved and paid for by Americans. Yucca Mountain should not have taken this long to become a reality; not after colossal amounts of money have been poured into this infrastructure project.

Members on both sides of the aisle, as you see tonight, are supportive of authorizing the use of Yucca Mountain through the Nuclear Waste Policy Act Amendments. It voted out of the House Energy and Commerce Committee by a vote of 49-4. Let's not let the politics of a few get in the way of reforming our nuclear waste policy and ensuring Americans get what they have already paid billions into.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his leadership, and I look forward to working with him to move this forward.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Illinois has 20 minutes remaining.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SHIMKUS. I do that, Mr. Speaker, because we have had Members from Oregon—I am from Illinois—Tennessee,

Minnesota, California, Georgia, South Carolina, Texas, Connecticut come down. Many, many Members from all over this country also wanted to join me here tonight, but they could not, so they will be submitting statements for the RECORD. I appreciate the Chair allowing us to do that.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to highlight a few things and just follow up on some of my colleagues, who I really appreciate coming down and spending their time to talk about the importance of this issue.

This issue has national support, I think identified by the 49-4 vote out of the Energy and Commerce Committee. People are very diverse, from all over the country, on the Energy and Commerce Committee. I would encourage people to go to the Energy and Commerce Committee website and look at the members of that committee and how wide and how diverse we are. We are all united on this issue.

The national newsmakers and the recorders of what is going on are starting to take interest in solving this problem. We have a couple editorials and statements from some major papers and some smaller ones.

Here is The Washington Post: "Put Yucca Mountain to work. The Nation needs it."

As was stated, the law was passed in 1982 and it was amended in 1987. Congressman DUNCAN said it right. This is the law of the land. For the last 8 to 10 years, we have been breaking the law by not moving forward. People have heard me say that numerous times before.

Here is The San Diego Union-Tribune: "Revival of Yucca Mountain nuclear waste project overdue."

Well, it is 20 years. We should have been receiving spent nuclear fuel and defense waste 20 years ago. Now we are paying judgments because of our inability to comply with the law.

Wouldn't you like the government to do what it says it wants to do and then is planning to do it? And then shouldn't they do it?

Here is Aiken Standard: "Fed should proceed with Yucca Mountain."

Here is the Reason: "Open the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository."

Here is the Los Angeles Times and their statement on this issue: "The Federal Government needs to renew its efforts to bring the Yucca Mountain site into operation."

There is a lot of support in California because they are closing nuclear power plants and they have spent nuclear fuel on the beach, as Congressman CARBAJAL has said. He is talking about San Luis Obispo.

I think I will show a chart later on that shows San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, or SONGS, which is being decommissioned.

Here is the Chicago Tribune, from my State: "Yucca Mountain is the only viable alternative to the jury-rigged status quo. We hope the Trump administration and Congress will revive it because if they don't"—well, you can read it, right?

So let me give you an example. It was mentioned by one of my colleagues, and I will talk about Illinois for a little bit. Zion Nuclear Power Station is decommissioned. On the shore of Lake Michigan is spent nuclear fuel.

Part of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act Amendments of 2017 does a couple things. It makes sure the authorization language is in place so that we start moving forward on a final repository.

We have listened to my colleagues from around the country to say it is not going to move fast enough, even if you start it.

Can't we find some regional temporary locations.

Now, in the nuclear timeframe, "temporary" is about 40 years. That is temporary when you are talking about nuclear stuff. So we want to be able to consolidate.

What this shows is licensed and operating nuclear spent fuel storage installations. These are just locations where you have nuclear power. And you can see the red dots all over the place, and other nuclear registered locations.

I am not talking about the other issue, which is defense locations. That is why I am glad my colleague JOE COURTNEY came down to talk about Connecticut and the nuclear Navy.

A colleague that really wanted to be down here was DAN NEWHOUSE, who represents Hanford. Hanford is the epitome story of why we need to get our act together as a nation and fulfill our obligations to clean up these sites.

This is a defense site. We created waste in the production of our nuclear arsenal. Decades, stored in tanks, toxic sludge underneath the ground that needs to be glassified, as Chairman WALDEN mentioned. And where that glassified toxic sludge is supposed to go is underneath the mountain in a desert in Yucca Mountain.

So these are the different locations we have here across the country. As was stated tonight already, 39 States, 121 locations. Thirty-nine States, 121 locations.

So let me give you a few examples of what we are talking about.

My colleague JASON LEWIS was down here earlier, and he mentioned Prairie Island. These are old charts, but they are oldies but goodies because we haven't done anything. I can go into the dustbin of history when I talk about this on the floor, and the only thing that has changed is there is more spent nuclear fuel on these sites.

So you have Prairie Island. You have waste stored aboveground in pools and in casts. You have, in the Mississippi floodplain, on the Mississippi River, 50 miles from Minneapolis-St. Paul versus Yucca Mountain.

Now, what do we have at Yucca Mountain?

Now, Yucca Mountain is where, by law, we are supposed to be receiving long-term repository.

I refer people, there is no nuclear waste on site. Here is the mountain in

a desert. The waste will be stored 1,000 feet underground and 1,000 feet above the water table.

□ 2015

The Colorado River is the closest body of water 100 miles away. So that is the example. That is what we want to show to the American people.

Would you rather have nuclear waste or defense waste next to your major cities and by major bodies of water, or would you rather have them in a desert underneath a mountain?

I had a few Californians down here tonight. Why? Because they are decommissioning nuclear power plants. This is the one I visited just maybe 14 months ago. It is no longer an operating nuclear power station. They are decommissioning it. The waste will be stored onsite. It is the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station. It is between L.A. and San Diego right on the Pacific Ocean. At this time, there are 2,300 waste rods onsite. That has probably increased by a number I don't know. Waste is stored aboveground. It is adjacent to the Pacific Ocean, and it is located 45 miles from San Diego, versus Yucca Mountain which is located here, which is a mountain in a desert. The waste would be 1,000 feet underground, and that is 1,000 feet above the water table.

So I have listened to my colleagues from Nevada. In fact, in this picture, this green area, these are all the counties around the Federal land site that have passed resolutions in support of moving forward.

Now, what do the Nevadans tell me? They want to make sure it is safe. How do you make it safe? You decide to adjudicate the science. We give Nevada, as per law, their last chance to question the science. That is what we are trying to do in the appropriation process is get the money to do the final adjudication so that the question can be answered. To my friends from the State of Nevada: Is a mountain in a desert a safe place to store the defense waste and spent fuel?

Now, the red part is Federal land. Yucca Mountain would be about right here, a little pinhole. That yellow there is—when you hear people say local consensus, the yellow here is a local consensus from Sweden, and if you notice, it is smaller than the Federal land that we have. So I would argue the local consensus is the Federal Government since it is all that property. Now, why do we have all that property? Because Yucca Flat is there. Because we put nuclear fuel—nuclear waste, in some short and some shade, is already housed there. So, again, it is a great location.

I was given a pin tonight from Nye County, and it says, "Host of Yucca Mountain." So with all due respect to my colleagues from the State of Nevada, when they say that everyone is against it, they are not talking to everyone in the State of Nevada. I have been to Las Vegas, I have been to Reno,

and I have been to Pahrump, and there are people that—if proven safe.

So I would ask the Governor, allow us to have the litigation to fight the science. That is what he wants to prove, that is what we want to prove, and that is what we need to appropriate the money, get the final adjudication, and then I am convinced that our nuclear scientists, the studies, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission that issued a safety and evaluation report will come out and say: You are not going to find a safer place on this planet; there is no more of a studied location on the planet than Yucca Mountain.

So, again, I want to thank my colleagues for coming down to do a couple things. First of all, we want to highlight to our leadership in this House and our appropriators that we need to get money into the final omnibus to do the adjudication to fight for the science, and we have to do that now—issue one.

Issue two, there is a bipartisan consensus, as proven by the 49-4 vote in the committee and by 108 cosponsors, and when we get the bill on the floor, a passage of a bill that we probably would project to get 300 votes out of 435.

So the nuclear era started in World War II. It was started to beat Hitler to make sure they didn't win World War II. Then we had the arms race with the Soviet Union. It has helped protect our freedom and liberty. There was a price to pay, environmental degradations across this country. We owe it to these communities and to ourselves to safely gather, store, and protect the environment and protect our citizens. We do that through the appropriation process. We do it by passing the Nuclear Waste Policy Act amendments of 2007.

Mr. Speaker, I want to again thank my friends from both sides of the aisle for coming down this night.

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in 2002, after extensive research by the Department of Energy (DOE), scientists concluded that Yucca Mountain met all the requirements to act as a repository for high level radioactive waste. After which, the DOE applied for the license from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to begin construction of the Yucca Mountain facility.

Unfortunately, due to political brinksmanship, those plans have stalled indefinitely, despite the fact that ratepayers have contributed nearly \$30 Billion to the nuclear waste fund, which is specifically designated to be used for Yucca Mountain.

The federal government and taxpayers have dedicated enormous resources to completing the nuclear storage facility at Yucca Mountain. However, the Obama Administration did everything in its power to stall the completion of the facility, holding up construction under political red tape—even though the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's own safety evaluation found it would not be a threat to the local population of Nevada as it would benefit all of America.

Thankfully, the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2017 will finally remove

unnecessary burdens to make much needed improvements to our national nuclear waste strategy.

This legislation is especially important to the residents of South Carolina. South Carolina ratepayers have invested over \$1.3 billion into Yucca over the last 30 years—that's in addition to the billions of dollars collected from ratepayers across the country. During this time, states like South Carolina have remained de facto repositories for nuclear waste. The federal government should finish what they started and complete the Yucca Mountain license application.

Currently, SNF is stored in 121 different neighborhoods, across 39 states—all waiting to be moved to a permanent location. The Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act will address the concerns of communities across the country, in a cost-effective manner, and passed the Energy and Commerce Committee with bi-partisan support, 49 members voting in favor and only 4 against. I am grateful for the opportunity to support this legislation, and am hopeful that it will provide much needed clarification on the disposal of spent nuclear fuel.

I am grateful that text from my bill, the Sensible Nuclear Waste Disposition Act was included in this bill and thank Chairman JOHN SHIMKUS for his leadership.

SEPARATE AND UNEQUAL: RACISM AND POVERTY 50 YEARS AFTER THE KERNER REPORT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor that I rise today to anchor the CBC Special Order. I would like to thank the CBC chairman, Chairman RICHMOND, for his leadership in this effort.

For the next 60 minutes, we have an opportunity to speak directly to the American people about issues of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus and the millions of constituents we represent.

Tonight, Mr. Speaker, I want to speak about a topic that has affected this country and plagued us all. Over 50 years ago, in the middle of the Detroit riot, President Lyndon B. Johnson established the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, commonly known as the Kerner Commission. The goal of that Commission was to identify the underlying causes of the civil unrest in communities across the country.

This was a time of tremendous tension in our great Nation. Many Ameri-

cans were confused about the root causes of the riots and the unsure path forward.

On February 29, 1968, following several field trips to troubled communities, the Commission released the Kerner Report, a 176-page report that examined cultural institutional racism, from segregated schools and housing discrimination to generational poverty and to limited economic opportunity.

The Commission largely held racism responsible for Black rioting and warned that our Nation is moving to two societies, one Black, one White—separate and unequal. The Commission called for bold policies to counter decades of political failure, such as investment in much-needed social services, housing, and education programs; and incentivizing diversity among law enforcement.

Sadly, President Johnson ignored the Kerner Report and rejected its recommendations. In the midst of that, we had the assassinations of several prominent Americans: President John F. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, and Dr. Martin Luther King.

Fifty years later, America has made some improvements, but African Americans continue to face some of the same issues discussed in the Kerner Report.

Since its release, Black American homeownership has been flat, and unemployment is still twice that of White Americans. The Black prison population has tripled here in America. It used to be two other countries, South Africa during the apartheid years and the former Soviet Union, had more people in prison. Now the United States has more people in prison than any nation in the world.

Black household wealth is less than one-fifth of the national average, and almost 33 percent of Black children are growing up in poverty.

Recently, Fred Harris, the last living member of the Kerner Commission, issued a new report highlighting the persistent issues plaguing the Black community and calling on major investments in education, workforce development, and a living wage. This comes in stark contrast to the severe cuts proposed by President Trump in the fiscal year 2019 budget.

Today, in fact, I attended a meeting for the CEO Council for Growth at Drexel University. The council's mission is to lead our region forward by convening decisionmakers, taking action, and doing the things necessary to strengthen our regional economy.

With poverty at 26 percent in my district, I am committed to working with the CEOs present at today's meeting and others who are using creativity and innovation to help reduce poverty, combat hunger, and spur economic growth.

I also attended a discussion at Temple University in Philadelphia. Although the recently passed budget was by no means perfect, I firmly believe

that our leadership and our actions matter.

So it was great to hear firsthand from professors at Temple University today about how the recent jolt in NIH funding will allow them to keep their research on the rise. If we want to continue moving the needle on poverty reduction, we must make it our priority to invest in all of our neighborhoods.

We are in the business of doing no harm. As elected officials, we are here to help move our neighborhoods forward, not backward, and we must continue to urgently press for commonsense economic solutions for Americans most in need.

I stand before you today to tell you just as I have always done before, we must continue to make ideas matter. We must push for commonsense solutions to help move us past the conditions that led to the Kerner Report.

Mr. Speaker, I have my colleague from California (Ms. LEE) here, who is someone whom I have watched and observed. As a matter of fact, she is the chair leading the effort from the Democratic perspective on attacking this issue of poverty. She has been in the forefront of this particular issue, and her voice is heard throughout this entire Nation, the Honorable BARBARA LEE from the 13th District.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, first, let me thank Congressman DWIGHT EVANS for, once again, hosting this very important Special Order and for really continuing this fight for racial and economic justice both here in the House of Representatives but also in his congressional district. So I thank the gentleman very much for his tremendous leadership.

Fifty years ago at the height of the civil rights movement, violence erupted in cities across America. Over generations, systemic racism had produced what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., called a tale of two cities. One city was bright and full of opportunity for a select few, and another city was shrouded in darkness and locked in a never-ending cycle of poverty.

African Americans, suffocating under the pressure of institutional racism and discrimination, took to the streets.

After race riots erupted in Watts and Chicago; Newark, New Jersey; and Detroit, our government took notice. President Johnson convened the Kerner Commission, which Congressman EVANS laid out, which had three goals to investigate the root cause of the unrest.

Many activists and civil rights leaders were concerned that the Commission wouldn't reveal the true facts. But to our surprise—and I remember this very clearly—the report was brutally honest.

According to the report, White racism was responsible for the rising tensions and explosive violence ripping our Nation apart. So that should have been a wake-up call.

□ 2030

Racism had created two societies: one Black, one White, separate and unequal. The report identified the problem and proposed a series of targeted solutions that could right this terrible wrong.

According to the report, there were three options for our government:

One, do nothing, which would result in more riots and economic devastation and racial division in our country;

Two, we could make robust investments into African-American neighborhoods and schools;

Three, take racism and discrimination head-on, removing discriminatory barriers that lock African Americans into poverty and prevent them from accessing the basics and a basic standard of living.

Option three, of course, could have drastically changed the lives of millions of African Americans. Sadly, the Kerner Commission's report was largely ignored. Again, Congressman EVANS laid that out.

Instead of investing in education, employment opportunities, livable wages, raising incomes, and pathways out of poverty, this country, unfortunately, has allowed institutional racism to divide this Nation. Of course, we have made some progress, but this updated report clearly shows that is not nearly enough. We really are still a divided country. As a result, the findings of the 1968 Kerner Commission's report remain constant to this very day.

In 1968, almost half of all students of color, primarily African Americans, went to majority-White schools. Today, that number has plummeted to 20 percent.

In 1968, the unemployment rate for African Americans was 6.7 percent. Today, 7.5 percent of African Americans are unemployed.

In 1968, African Americans were 5.4 times as likely as Whites to be in prison or in jail. Today, African Americans are 6.4 times as likely as Whites to be incarcerated.

Five decades have passed and economic inequality still prevents the African-American community from accessing the American Dream.

I represent the 13th Congressional District of California, which includes Alameda County. While some are witnessing and experiencing enormous wealth and economic growth in my district, 43 percent of African-American children in Oakland are living in poverty, 23.6 percent of African Americans in my district are locked in poverty, and the average income for African-American families in the San Francisco Bay Area is \$46,571 a year, compared to White families, who make more than \$109,000. That is in my district in the San Francisco Bay Area. This gap is one of the hugest gaps in the country. It is a total disgrace.

We should be leveling the economic playing field for African Americans across the Nation. Instead, we throw Black workers meager wages and apply

trickle-down economics that only benefit the rich.

Our Federal Government should provide the impetus, incentive, and investment for good-paying jobs for African-American workers. Instead, this administration is attacking unions and produced a budget that guts job training programs and a tax law that makes it easier to ship jobs overseas.

We should be investing in affordable housing, which, yes, is a basic human right for everyone, including the African-American community. Instead, this administration is weakening fair housing laws and rationing off affordable housing funding.

The majority of this administration's proposed budget—the cuts, especially—will disproportionately negatively impact African Americans and people of color. This really is a twisted and sick reality that shouldn't be possible in the United States of America.

But members of the Congressional Black Caucus are here tonight to say that we continue to be determined to change this reality because, yes, Black lives do matter. We are here to tell the truth about what is dividing America: racism. It is manifest in many forms in our policy, in our budget, in our funding priorities, and in many, many ways.

In January, a group of nearly 100 religious leaders came together to issue a unity declaration on racism and poverty. Mr. Speaker, I include in the record a letter, a document, entitled, "Unity Declaration on Racism and Poverty," and a document entitled, "Circle of Protection."

UNITY DECLARATION ON RACISM AND POVERTY

As leaders from diverse families of U.S. Christianity, we are called by the Spirit to work together with new urgency against the resurgence of racism and the persistence of poverty in America. We see around us an increase of harmful attitudes and policies toward people of color and people in need. That painful reality and the current push for trillions of dollars in cuts to anti-poverty programs are bringing us together in a new way. While we have different positions on other questions, we are united on the gospel and biblical teaching on poverty and racism—feeling invited to do so by the grace of God in Jesus Christ.

WE BELIEVE THAT RACISM AND POVERTY ARE THEOLOGICAL ISSUES

The integral relationship between poverty and racism unifies us against both. They are both issues to which the gospel of Jesus Christ speaks—which also calls us to love our neighbors, without exceptions. Our unity on these issues is because they are theological issues for us, not merely political or partisan ones. These fundamentally biblical concerns challenge all of us and both of the major political parties.

Racism is a sin that goes back to the founding of our nation. At its root, racism is in conflict with the opening declaration in Genesis 1, that we are all made in the image and likeness of God. Racism literally throws away the biblical principle of *imago dei*—the image of God in all of us, with no exceptions. Racism is a sin against God and all of God's children. Therefore, the whole counsel of God calls us to preach against the sin of racism from all of our churches' pulpits and call for repentance.

The body of Christ is perhaps the most diverse racial community in the world. When people of color in the body of Christ suffer—while many white members of the body of Christ do not acknowledge their pain—we are violating the principle laid down in 1 Corinthians 12: that we are one body with many parts, who suffer with and honor one another. As Galatians instructs us, "there is no more Jew or Greek, bond or free, male or female, because we are all united as one in Christ" (3:28).

The historical sin of racism lingers on in America today, continuing and evolving in our social systems of economics and education, policing and criminal justice, housing and gentrification, voting rights and suppression, in our racial geography, and, painfully, in the continued segregation of our churches, which adds to our own complicity. Racism is more than individual behavior, language, and overt hostility toward particular people. Racism is systematic and structural in America and harms people of color in very specific, measurable, and tangible ways.

The failure to defend the lives and dignity of people living in poverty, by individuals or governments, is also a sin against God, with 2,000 verses in the Bible clearly outlining God's fundamental concern for people who are poor, vulnerable, and oppressed, instructing the people of God to protect and help them and holding political leaders responsible for them. Jesus says, in Matthew 25, that how we treat the "least of these" is how we treat Christ himself.

The world and our country have made progress against poverty in recent decades. It is possible to make further progress—perhaps virtually end—hunger and extreme poverty in our time. We see the alleviation of material misery as an experience of God's loving presence in our own time, and believe that God wants us to seize this opportunity.

TO OUR CHURCHES: WHAT WE ARE DOING AND CAN DO

Most of our churches are active in helping people in need, struggling people within their congregations or in their communities. We need to do more, but many of our churches directly help millions of people every day. Local church leaders often work to bridge the racial divides in our communities, and many are searching for authentic and specific ways to address the rise of white supremacy.

Since the God of the Bible requires social justice and charity, our churches and many of our members also work to influence public policies. Christians have a wide array of political viewpoints. But a majority of the leaders of national church bodies have spoken out repeatedly against cuts to programs that provide help and opportunity to hungry and poor people in our country and around the world. We have also spoken out against renewed expressions of white racism, ethnic nationalism, and hateful attitudes toward people of color, immigrants, refugees, Jews, and Muslims. Many of us are active in support of immigration reform, criminal justice reform, and voting rights for all.

We are deeply troubled by the budget proposals coming from Congress and the president. They outline more than \$2 trillion of cuts in programs for hungry and poor people in our country and around the world. These cuts would hurt struggling people of all races, including millions of low- and middle-income people who need safety-net programs at some time in their lives. The hardest hit would be African American, Latino, and Native American communities, where the poverty rate is already high, and among people in the poorest countries in the world.

The threat over the coming year of this broad assault on anti-poverty programs that

support families struggling to make ends meet is unifying us—bringing us together in a more vigorous, multiracial Christian movement to maintain a circle of protection around all people in poverty and God's children of color in particular, who are disproportionately impacted.

TO CONGRESS AND THE WHITE HOUSE: OUR UNITED APPEAL FOR HEALING AND REFORM IN OUR NATION'S POLITICS

We appeal to the president and Congress to work together for the common good. We especially call upon political leaders who are also people of faith to protect all the people in our country and world who are struggling with economic deprivation and frustration, hunger and poverty, disability and disadvantage—and racial bigotry that often contributes to inaction and hard-heartedness.

God's love for all people moves us to reach out to people and leaders all across the political spectrum. We respect and pray for all those who are in authority—that our nation and world “may lead a quiet and peaceable life” (1 Timothy 2:1-2). Conservative and liberal people, and those with differing political philosophies, may disagree on how to live up to our nation's ideals, but our loving God calls all of us to work together for liberty and justice for everyone.

We appeal to all people, especially Christians, to actively work against racism and poverty—in their personal and local engagement and as advocates for public policies that foster racial equity and healing, shared prosperity, and peace in our country and worldwide. The spiritual power of a fresh, energetic, multiracial Christian movement against both racism and poverty is our prayer. So help us God.

SIGNATORIES

Rev. Eddy M. Alemán, Strategic Director of Leadership Development and Hispanic Ministries, Reformed Church in America

Rev. Dr. David Anderson, Founder/Senior Pastor, Bridgeway Community Church; President and CEO, BridgeLeader Network

Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, Diocesan Legate and Ecumenical Director, Armenian Orthodox Church

Bishop Carroll Baltimore, President and CEO, Global Alliance Interfaith Network

Dr. Jay Barnes, President, Bethel University

Bishop George E. Battle, Senior Bishop, AME Zion Church

Rev. David Beckmann, President, Bread for the World

Rev. Traci D. Blackmon, Executive Minister of Justice and Local Church Ministries, The United Church of Christ

Bishop Charles E. Blake, Presiding Bishop and Chief Apostle, Church of God in Christ

Rev. Samuel Borbon, Associate Missioner for Latino/Hispanic Ministry and Program Development, Episcopal Church USA

Rev. Dr. Peter Borgdorff, Executive Director Emeritus, Christian Reformed Church in North America

Carol Bremer-Bennett, Director, World Renew USA

Dr. Amos Brown, Chair, Social Justice Commission, National Baptist Convention USA, Inc.

Bishop Rosetta Bryson, Presiding Prelate, The Reconcile Group

Sister Simone Campbell, SSS, Executive Director, NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice

Dr. Tony Campolo, Co-Founder, Red Letter Christians

Rev. Galen Carey, Vice President of Government Relations, National Association of Evangelicals

Mr. Patrick Carolan, Executive Director, Franciscan Action Network

Mr. John Carr, Director, Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life, Georgetown University

Dr. Iva Carruthers, General Secretary, Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference

Dr. Fernando Cascante, Executive Director, AETH & The Justo Center

Rev. Noel Castellanos, President, CCDA

Rev. Walter Contreras, Vice President, NaLEC; Pasadena Presbyterian Church

Dr. Leslie Copeland-Tune, Director, Ecumenical Poverty Initiative

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate, The Episcopal Church

Rev. Joshua Dubois, Founder and CEO, Values Partnerships

Rev. José García, Senior Advisor for Prayer and Strategic Initiatives, Bread for the World

Mr. Vince Gonzales, Chair, Racial and Social Justice Task Force, Churches Uniting in Christ

Rev. Wesley Granberg-Michaelson, General Secretary Emeritus, Reformed Church in America; Chair of Board of Directors, Sojourners

The Most Reverend Wilton D. Gregory, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Atlanta

Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, Executive Director, American Baptist Home Mission Societies

Dr. Cynthia Hale, Founding Pastor, Ray of Hope Christian Church; Member, Disciples of Christ

Forest E. Harris, Sr., President, American Baptist College, Director of Black Church Studies, Vanderbilt University Divinity School

Dr. Frederick D. Haynes, III, Chairman, The Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference

Richard B. Hays, George Washington Ivey Professor of New Testament, Duke Divinity School

Rev. Mitchell Hescoc, President and CEO, Evangelical Environmental Network

Dr. Roberto Hodgson, Director, Multicultural Ministries Church of the Nazarene

Dr. Shirley Hoogstra, President, Council of Christian Colleges & Universities

Rev. Teresa Hord-Owens, General Minister, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Dr. Joel C. Hunter, Faith Community Organizer; Chair, Central Florida Commission on Homelessness; Chair, Community Resource Network

Hyepin Im, President and CEO, Faith and Community Empowerment

Rev. Dr. Dale T. Irvin, President and Professor of World Christianity, New York Theological Seminary

Rev. John K. Jenkins, Pastor, First Baptist Church of Glenarden and Board Member, National Association of Evangelicals

Sister Carol Keehan, DC, President and CEO, Catholic Health Association of the United States

Eric LeCompte, Executive Director, Jubilee USA Network

Rev. Dr. Jo Anne Lyon, General Superintendent Emerita, The Wesleyan Church

Mr. John Lyon, President, World Hope International

Rev. Carlos Malavé, Executive Director, Christian Churches Together

Sister Donna Markham OP, PhD, President and CEO, Catholic Charities

Rev. Dr. Walter Arthur McCray, President, National Black Evangelical Association

Rev. John L. McCullough, President and CEO, Church World Service

Bishop Vashti McKenzie, 117th Elected and Consecrated Bishop, AME Church

Bishop Darin Moore, Presiding Prelate of the Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District, AME Zion Church

Rev. Dr. Otis Moss, Jr., Co-Convener National African American Clergy Network

Rev. F. Salvador Orellana, National Coordinator for Latino Ministries, Intercultural Ministries American Baptist Home Missions Society

Rev. Rubén N. Ortiz, Latino Field Coordinator, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

The Most Reverend Richard E. Pates, Roman Catholic Bishop of Des Moines

Rev. Dr. James C. Perkins, President, Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.

Rev. Daniel Prieto, M.A.R. Chairman, National Hispanic Commission; Missional Coach & Hispanic Multiplication Coordinator, Foursquare Church

Agustín Quiles, Orlando, Florida

Soong-Chan Rah, Professor of Church Growth and Evangelism, North Park Theological Seminary

Ms. Diane E. Randall, Executive Secretary, Friends Committee on National Legislation

Senior Bishop Lawrence Reddick, CEO, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

Bishop Frank Madison Reid III, Presiding Bishop, AME Ecumenical & Urban Affairs

Dr. W. Franklin Richardson, Chairman, Conference of National Black Churches

Jose Luis (Pepe) Romero, Hispanic Affairs Specialist, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Andrew Ryskamp, Executive Director Emeritus, World Renew

Dr. Stephen Schneck, Director of the Institute for Policy Research & Catholic Studies, The Catholic University of America

Dr. Ronald Sider, President Emeritus, Evangelicals for Social Action

Rev. Arthur Simon, President Emeritus, Bread for the World

Dr. T. DeWitt Smith, Co-Convener, National African American Clergy Network

Rev. Eldridge Spearman, Pastor, Mt. Jezreel Baptist Church, National Baptist Convention, USA Inc.

Gregory E. Sterling, Henry L. Slack Dean and Lillian Claus Professor of New Testament, Yale Divinity School

Ervin R. Stutzman, Executive Director, Mennonite Church USA

Rev. Lori Tapia, National Pastor for Hispanic Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Rev. Adam Taylor, Executive Director, Sojourners

Dr. Steven Timmermans, Executive Director, Christian Reformed Church in North America

Bishop Joseph W. Walker, III, International Presiding Bishop, Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International, Inc.

Rev. Jim Wallis, President and Founder, Sojourners

Colin P. Watson, Director of Ministries and Administration, Christian Reformed Church in North America

Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner, Co-Convener, National African American Clergy Network; President, Skinner Leadership Institute

Rev. Jim Winkler, President and National Secretary, National Council of Churches

Bishop Jesse Yanez, Director, Church of God of the Prophecy N.A.

CIRCLE OF PROTECTION,

January 29, 2017

DEAR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: As the president and Congress are preparing their plans for this year, almost 100 church leaders—from all the families of U.S. Christianity—are sharing a common “Unity Statement” on racism and poverty. As Christians, we are grounded in God's love for all people, and we feel called to ask our churches and political leaders of both parties to work together to overcome racism and poverty which are theological, biblical, and gospel issues for us, not merely political or partisan ones.

This moment in time and the clear movement of the Spirit have brought diverse multi-racial church leaders together over the last several months for dinner conversations and times of prayer. Out of those moving times together, we developed a Unity Statement on Racism and Poverty. It has attracted many more racially and theologically diverse church leaders and is now

embraced by the Circle of Protection, the broadest group of Christian leaders focused on poverty. The leaders who have signed this statement are from African-American, Hispanic, Asian-American, Native American, Evangelical, Catholic, Pentecostal, and mainline Protestant churches; and many national faith-based organizations. We are all committed to help build a fresh, newly energetic, multi-racial Christian movement to make the integral connection between racism and poverty and seek the spiritual power to end both. We are also committed to working in alliance with other faith communities on the crucial intersection of racism and poverty as it is worked out in public policies. While the Circle of Protection is a Christian group, we believe this statement reflects the values and principles of people of diverse faiths.

We are purposefully sending you this statement before you go to your respective retreats. In addition to reading this statement thoughtfully, we ask for the following three things: first, we ask you to discuss this statement and the issues central to it—racism and poverty—at your retreats; second, we ask you to incorporate these concerns into your policy decisions and legislation in 2018 and beyond; third, we ask you to convene meetings with faith leaders in your communities to plan follow-up action on these issues in your states and districts. Racism and poverty are systemic issues that are central to the Bible and the teachings of Jesus. Therefore, they are critical to policy choices made by political leaders of faith and conscience. We will be following up with you directly to see how we can be helpful and useful to you as you consider these deeply biblical and theological issues.

We believe if we Christians from diverse backgrounds and traditions were known, not mostly for our divisions, but for our unity in a shared commitment to faithfully address both racism and poverty—together—it could be powerful force—both for our churches and the country. So help us God.

REV. JIM WALLIS,
*President and Founder,
Sojourners;*

DR. BARBARA WILLIAMS-SKINNER,

*Co-Convenor, National
African-American
Clergy Network and
President, Skinner
Leadership Institute;*

REV. DAVID BECKMANN,
*President, Bread for
the World;*

REV. CARLOS MALAVÉ,
*Executive Director,
Christian Churches
Together USA (in his
personal capacity).*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to share a passage from the unity statement that was developed. This was an ecumenical group of over 100 religious denominations: “Racism is more than individual behavior, language, and overt hostility toward particular people. Racism is systematic and structural in America and harms people of color in very specific, measurable, and tangible ways.”

Mr. Speaker, the Kerner report, unfortunately, was ignored, and 50 years later, we are still feeling and reaping the consequences. The difficult truth is that, until we address the impact of the middle passage and slavery of generations of African Americans and believe that truth and reconciliation

must happen, 50 years from now, two cities will have destroyed the very fabric of our Nation.

As the unity declaration goes on to say: “Racism is a sin that goes back to the founding of our Nation.”

We know what is plaguing our society, and we know what to do about it. The time for talk is over. It is time we do what is right for all Americans. Yes, Black lives do matter.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I heard the gentlewoman say, obviously, 1968, and we are now in 2018. I yield to the gentlewoman to tell me what she thinks, in terms of the conditions in 1968, which were obviously the riots, to where we are in 2018. I know there has been some progress, but in terms of things moving back.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, in many communities, housing was segregated. We passed fair housing laws. Affordable housing now is out of reach for many African Americans. This administration is now gutting all of our fair housing programs, our public housing programs, our Section 8 programs.

The banks, of course, did target African-American communities for these subprime scam loans. Unfortunately, any equity that had been built in the homes that we purchased after 1968 is gone. So the wealth gap is huge. It is greater than what it was probably in 1968.

When you look at the number of African Americans who were unemployed in 1968, I believe it was a little over 5 percent. Now we are looking at 7 percent.

When you look at the incarceration rates for the war on drugs, the marijuana laws in this country, especially in the eighties and the impacts of that, we have so many of our young African-American men incarcerated for misdemeanor and felony charges for marijuana distribution and use. We are looking at mass incarceration that has taken place since 1968 of African-American young men and women.

So, yes, we have made a lot of progress. I stand here as the 100th Black Member of Congress. Mr. EVANS is here. We have a Congressional Black Caucus that has increased in size. We have many, many allies in our fight. But I think what we haven't addressed is the issue of racism and institutional racism, because it is so subconscious for so many people until many decisions are made which negatively impact the African-American community.

So from 1968 to now, we have made some progress. We have some great professionals, people doing wonderful things in our community. We have great leaders. We have great scientists, lawyers, doctors, teachers, firefighters, and workers. We have so many people who have been able to lift themselves into the middle class, but we have left so many behind.

That is the point, I think, that, while this new report shows that some of us have progressed, we didn't do what was necessary to bring everyone along with

us, to lift everyone out of poverty in the Black community and provide for a level playing field for equality, for parity, and for a pathway into the American Dream.

That is really very sad and very shameful, but I have a lot of hope that our young people and that we here in the House and that the country really begin to understand that we have to address the root causes of what has happened in this country as it relates to the middle passage and slavery, and to understand that what we see today in these respects that cause these economic and racial disparities go right back to the unfortunate, devastating, and horrific middle passage.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman to speak about the panel she is leading on poverty.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, several years ago, we established the Whip's Task Force on Poverty, Inequality, and Opportunity. For so many years, I wanted to see our caucus talk about more issues relating to low-income and working people and people of color. I really appreciate our whip, STENY HOYER, and our leader, NANCY PELOSI, for rallying around this concept of looking around all these issues of poverty, inequality, and opportunity.

We put together this task force to begin to look at the policies that not only we need to support that are lifting people out of poverty, but what we need to do to fight against some of the policies and funding priorities that would lead more people into the ranks of the poor.

This task force now has over 100 people. We have meetings with experts, with organizations that are doing wonderful work throughout the country in communities of color and low-income communities and the Black communities, really demonstrating that there are some grassroots efforts and community efforts that, while here in Congress we haven't been able to change many policies, at the grassroots levels and the community level there are some wonderful people doing some great things to help lift people out of poverty and into the middle class.

So we try to highlight and showcase those organizations and individuals so that we can replicate them around the country, so that, until we can get the policies right, we can support those efforts that are taking place that are really doing a wonderful job.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON), someone I had the pleasure of spending time with. We have a little running conversation with the Eagles playing in the Super Bowl. He has turned out to be a very good friend in spite of that.

He has traveled this Nation and been very thoughtful in his comments and the things he has said. He wanted to really weigh in on this subject. He has been in the forefront of economic opportunity, poverty reduction, racism, and income equality. He has been in there.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, even though the gentleman from Pennsylvania's football team, the Eagles, beat the Vikings pretty badly, I forgive him for that because at least they beat New England and Tom Brady.

Now, on to the serious business.

I thank the gentleman, Mr. EVANS, for hosting this Special Order talking about the Kerner Commission.

I was born and raised in the city of Detroit. I am honored to represent Minnesota. I am a Minnesotan and very proud of Minnesota, but I started life out in the city of Detroit.

I remember 1968. I was born in August of 1963. I distinctly remember the riots. As a small child, my father was a medical professional, and I remember him being gone for long hours, coming home extremely tired. I remember the earnest conversations my parents were having, talking about the riots.

I remember looking outside my door and seeing military-style vehicles driving by, which is something we didn't really see. I remember being afraid because we heard some noises, and my mother had me and my brothers get under the bed.

I had no idea, really, what was going on, but those memories for me are very vivid because, when you are a child and your parents are afraid, you can feel it. I don't think I will ever forget it.

As I got older, I wanted to know more about the causes of the riots, and I learned and read about the Kerner Commission. The Kerner Commission's report was designed to focus on all of the civil disturbances that had been happening in the United States, including the Detroit riot, which I was alive and have some memory of.

□ 2045

I think it is difficult for young people who want to understand the Kerner Commission report—a report that was prophetic, a report that was thorough and important, a report that was actually a pretty good piece of literature that had good recommendations that our country has never really taken seriously.

But to understand this report and to really delve into the roots of it, I think it is important, Mr. Speaker, to understand that, before 1968, before there ever was a Kerner Commission report, our country, the United States, was a slave-holding nation for about 250 years. If you mark African-American presence in the United States from 1619 and you say slavery officially ended in 1865, America, our country, the United States, was a slave-holding nation longer than it was not one—longer, actually longer. This country held men, women, and children in bondage in absolute absence of freedom for longer than it has not, which is particularly ironic, given that our country is dedicated to liberty and freedom.

Literally millions of Americans existed in a state of anti-freedom, which is slavery. We have yet to contemplate it.

I remember going to law school studying property and contracts. We never talked about America's greatest amount of property, which is human property. We never actually asked: What is the law about leasing on slaves? What is the law about property ownership on slaves? What is this species of property?

We talked about real estate. We talked about other forms of property. We talked about intellectual property. But for many years of this Nation's history, the predominant form of property was human property in the United States, and we never stopped to even slow down.

I bet you there is not more than two or three law schools in the United States that take on this topic so that people can really understand the ground upon which we stand. We are in the U.S. Capitol, built by people who were not free. In this cathedral of freedom, the people who built it were not free for 250 years.

People stand by and say: Why don't you all get over that? You are always talking about that.

I say: Well, you all still celebrate the Fourth of July.

We are all proud on the Fourth of July that happened in 1776, but we are not supposed to talk about an institution that prevailed in the United States for most of its history.

And it wasn't quite over in 1865, was it?

No. In 1865, we passed the 13th Amendment banning involuntary servitude. We passed the 14th Amendment granting citizenship in, I think, 1868. In 1870, we passed the 15th Amendment granting Black men the right to vote.

This is essentially war measures. I am glad they exist, trust me. I am quite grateful they exist. But when you consider that over 200,000 Black soldiers took up arms to keep the Union—the Union—it was the very least that could happen that Black men would get to vote. Black women didn't get to vote.

But then after that, it is important, Mr. Speaker, to bear in mind another phenomenon took place. By 1877, the Tilden-Hayes compromise was effected, in which there was a dead heat political election. And the Republicans of that day, who, ironically, were the people who were against slavery at that time and against racism and bigotry, they said: We are tired of fighting about racism, slavery, and what is to happen with the Freedman. We will pull Union troops out of the South if you Democrats give us the election.

That allowed Rutherford B. Hayes to become President. Samuel Tilden did not become the President, but the Southerners, Democrats at that time, got what they wanted.

This phenomenon that occurred after that was the end of reconstruction. Lynching, slavery by another name, and true terrorism, under the auspices of the Ku Klux Klan, reined in America at this time. Pulaski, Tennessee, was

the home of the Klan. But there were many other White supremacist groups that received the sanction of our government. In fact, one might even argue that the whole government of the State of Indiana at one time was dominated by the Klan.

People interested in this phenomena can study a very important piece of film and book called "Slavery By Another Name," that talked about convict leasing. The 13th Amendment says that you cannot hold anybody in an involuntary servitude unless convicted of a crime.

That loophole allowed our country to use the criminal justice system to push Black men into it to take advantage of their labor through convict leasing. And even though the industry in Alabama of steelmaking really had not taken root during slavery, it did take root after slavery. The people who mined the iron ore and who worked in those mines were, essentially, in convict leasing.

Convict leasing prevailed in our country up until the 1930s and 1940s. In fact, cotton production dropped after the Civil War, but then went back up because of convict leasing because Black men and women were held in bondage through an unjust criminal justice system that forced them to work cotton up until mechanization made hand cotton picking not advantageous anymore. That, together with the sharecropping system, maintained that system.

We think about the Kerner Commission report, we think about the riots of 1968, 1965, and 1966, all of these things, Black rage exploding on the national scene, and people ask: What are they mad about?

Two hundred and fifty years of slavery and 100 years after Jim Crow after that might make you a little upset.

Black people never missed a war. African-American soldiers helped fight for the Union; African-American soldiers helped fight in Korea; the Spanish-American war. As a matter of fact, you can't name a military conflict that Black people didn't fight for this country and die for it. Yet, after the service, usually we came back to racism and discrimination.

There is a great movie out now called "Mudbound" about this very phenomena. If people want to learn more about this, they can look at this film "Mudbound" about a Black soldier who comes back, gets treated with human dignity in Europe, comes back to Mississippi, and then gets lynched.

This is our country. I am proud of my country and I love my country, but I am not blind to it.

The Kerner Commission tried to open our eyes and tell us what was really going on. One of the phenomena—and I would like to just note this—is that one of the many ways that racism manifested itself is through residential segregation. Blacks were not allowed to live in certain areas, work in certain areas, and, in 1903, the great Woodrow

Wilson kicked Black people out of Federal employment. His reason was that we carry disease. This is in the modern era. Black people were relegated to living in certain neighborhoods. And, actually, when it was found to be illegal to say Blacks can't live in this neighborhood by the Supreme Court, then that is when redlining took hold.

Residential segregation was so effective, Mr. Speaker, for 50 years, that we now in America today—and I am talking about 2018—if you survey White Americans and you ask them, Have you had a significant and meaningful conversation in the last 6 months, who are those people and who are the top seven, 91 percent of White Americans will say that they haven't had a meaningful conversation with a person of color.

Residential segregation is so bad that we don't talk to each other. The result is no empathy—no sympathy; no empathy; no sense of, gee, that is really too bad.

People say: Well, they don't work hard. That is the problem.

Well, wait a minute. How could it be that the people who worked for 250 years for free don't work hard? How could it be that people who don't have any power are some big threat to be feared in this Nation when all we have done is serve it and build it?

At the end of the day, the Kerner Commission tried to highlight discrimination against African Americans in education, housing, and employment; tried to help the Nation understand why some African Americans get enraged about incidents of official violence; why we don't condone, nor even do we agree, with riots.

We cannot act like we don't understand them. Of course we understand them. Many of us have chosen that we are going to try to reform our country and help it reach its promise through our electoral system, through organizing, and activism. We are going to try to make America a stronger and better place by working within the systems that exist.

I am proud that I am one of those people. But I often have to find myself trying to convince people who don't agree with me that there are answers within the system that I am right and they are not, because they come with arguments sometimes based on the history.

The bottom line is the Kerner Commission report, 50 years ago today, we have made progress. There is no doubt about it. We don't have Jim Crow anymore. But we have also seen stagnation.

There is a new report by the Eisenhower Foundation, which shows that since the late 1960s, income inequality and the wealth gap have actually gotten wider. While high school and college graduation rates have improved for the Black community since the Kerner Commission report—thank goodness, and this is an important advance, and we are grateful for it—these gains in access have not translated in economic vitality.

Black families have the highest student debt. Thirty-one percent of all Black families have college debt, compared to about 20 percent of White families. College debt is tough on families of any color, but African Americans, having a lower overall income and a much lower wealth, have to borrow more to seek out education, and that is limiting African-American opportunity.

More than 70 percent of White families own their own homes compared to less than half of Black and Hispanic families. Since 1968, White homeownership has steadily increased, but Black homeownership has not changed. In 1968, 41 percent of Black families owned their own home.

And what is the homeownership rate today?

Now it is 41.2.

Given what I shared with you earlier about residential segregation and about how Blacks and Whites and Latinos don't really interact nearly as much as they should, given the fact that we are all Americans, people may not understand why African-American economic progress has not been as swift as we might want it to be.

To that I say it is a matter of residential segregation and even current redlining. I recommend to people to read an important book called "Evicted" by Matthew Desmond, and also listen to a podcast called "Reveal" about redlining. This prospect of redlining is very important. "Reveal" looked at literally thousands and thousands of pieces of data from the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act. They found that, in 61 metropolitan areas in the United States, there is substantial evidence of mortgage discrimination. That is African Americans, who got the same credit score, the same down payment as other people, who are denied loans.

Mr. Speaker, this even happens in neighborhoods where Black people are the majority.

People wonder: How is it that you have gentrification?

Well, the Black person with the downpayment and the 700 credit score gets told that they cannot have a loan; and the White person with the 500 or 600 credit score and a 3 percent downpayment gets told: Sure, have the loan. It is happening every day.

Listen to the podcast "Reveal." You will see a woman who went through this herself. It left her not only without a house, but she had to have her partner, who is White and Asian mix, be the one who took out the mortgage because they wouldn't give her one.

I am saying that our country is truly a great nation, but to get to its true greatness, it has got to confront racial discrimination. I am not talking about prejudice. I am talking about racism.

What is the difference?

Prejudice means I don't like you because of your color, your race, and it is a personal thing. It is just I don't like you.

What I am talking about by racism is systematic denial of opportunity without regard to personality.

They didn't turn that Black woman down in that "Reveal" podcast because they didn't like her. They don't know her. They know she is Black, and that is all they need to know to turn her down.

This is what we have to confront as a country.

And as I close, Congressman EVANS, and as I get ready to take my seat, I just want to point out that, in 2016, White families had a median net worth of \$171,000 compared to \$17,000 for Blacks and \$20,000 for Latinos. Sixty percent of White families reported having retirement savings, which is double the rate for Black and Hispanic families.

We have to understand what Martin Luther King tried to teach us, and that is: What difference does it make if you can sit at a lunch counter if you cannot afford a hamburger?

□ 2100

The Kerner Commission tried to signal to us the way forward. In 2018, we still have the opportunity to take the lessons of it and to build a truly beloved society, as Martin Luther King tried to teach us, but it cannot just be platitudes and pretty talk. It has got to be real commitment, real money, and real investment in opportunity for all.

At the end of the day, in the United States, we say, as we say the Pledge of Allegiance, "liberty and justice for all." I say economic liberty and economic justice for all, and I say we will then see much more social inclusion, and we will live up to the recommendations of the Kerner Commission. We can't wait another 50 years.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the gentleman a question. I hope people heard him. I want to ask a couple things.

The goal of the Commission was to identify the underlying causes of the civil unrest in communities across the country, and obviously a lot has happened in that 50 years. Technology, trade policies, tax policies, education policies, all those types of things have occurred, and it is clear knowing—obviously, in 1968, they didn't know anything about the internet, trade policies, tax policies.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the gentleman: Should there be another commission report? Should there be something that, in a sense, tries to update, in 2018, knowing the circumstances that we are in, and especially poverty has even grown more?

Mr. Speaker, I told you, in the district I am in, which has a lot of wealth with major universities, there is 26 percent poverty. In 1968, there was a riot in the city of Philadelphia.

Now, we don't have riots, you know, fortunately, anymore today in communities, but do we have a form of quiet riot that is occurring in these communities, not physically the way they were, but in some way there is still this growing gap? So we know what the goal was.

Mr. ELLISON. Right.

Mr. EVANS. We know the goal was to identify the underlying causes of the civil unrest.

Mr. Speaker, what I hear Mr. ELLISON saying with that 250 years, the first time I ever heard that described that way, I would ask him to talk to us a little bit about here it is 2018, 50 years later, with all these things that have happened.

I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I think another Kerner Commission report is definitely appropriate. It is right. It is good. But I will say that the Eisenhower Foundation did a report that showed that, since the late 1960s, income inequality and the wealth gap have widened.

I really believe that what we really need to do is say to ourselves, as a nation, that we are going to actually live out the true meaning of our creed. At the end of the day, the problem is not intellectual; the problem is a matter of will.

Actually, we have real challenges in our Nation today because, I happen to believe, we have a President who is less willing to move progress forward than even other Republicans who have been in office.

We live in a time, now, where we have seen the rollback of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. We have seen the—right now, there is an attack on public employees in the Supreme Court. It feels like 1870.

You remember I was talking about the Civil War. Black soldiers entered the Civil War in 1863 after the Emancipation Proclamation; 200,000 fought in that Civil War. Black soldiers helped win the Civil War and maintained the Union. In fact, Lincoln himself said that, without Black soldiers, we might not have a Union.

We went through Reconstruction. Of course, Lincoln was killed in April of 1865, but by 1870, we began to roll back, we began to see the progress and the promise roll back.

It feels a little bit like that right now. It feels a little bit like that. But, you know, we are not going back to them bad old days. I want everyone to hear that African Americans, Latinos, women, the LGBT community, people of other religious groups, minority religions, we are not going to the back of the bus. It is just not going to happen.

Better to say, okay, instead of having one group in America be supreme over everyone, what if that group were simply equal to everyone?

Some people in our country seem to believe that having 43 Presidents who are White men, you get one that is Black, and now, all of a sudden, oh, my God, the world is coming to an end. No, it isn't. Everything is fine. Everyone is fine. It just means that what we wrote on paper is actually getting reflected a little bit more in reality.

I think we need to make a firm commitment to end housing discrimina-

tion, a firm commitment to let the people vote, a firm commitment to stop giving tax breaks to the richest people and give the working and middle class a chance to earn a decent level of pay.

I think we need a Republican caucus who will help work with us to stop the carnage of guns on these streets and to allow people who have come here as children not to be thrown out of the country summarily. That is what we really need. But I am not getting the sense that they want to help out, so I am thinking we need to get elections that will get some people, Republican or Democrat, to come out here and do some good things for the American people—and not just the wealthiest, most privileged people.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, we have another person, who is a neighbor of mine and has been a very good friend, from the great State of New Jersey. We have got that Benjamin Franklin, Walt Whitman Bridge connection. He is a very good friend.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), from the 10th District of New Jersey.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from the Keystone State for hosting tonight's Special Order hour. He has demonstrated great leadership during this time, and the issues that we are tackling during these Special Order hours are very important to this country as we move forward.

As has been stated today, it has been 50 years since the Kerner report warned us that the Nation was headed into a separate and unequal future. The Kerner report was supposed to be a wake-up call for the United States to break the cycle that kept African-Americans in poverty. It called for government to invest in job creation programs, to expand public housing, and to guarantee minimum family incomes. The Kerner report understood that such actions were necessary for the United States to confront its legacy of race and inequality.

Unfortunately, 50 years later, the same problems persist. The rate of child poverty in the United States today is greater than it was in 1968. The percent of Americans who live in the depths of poverty has grown as well. Welfare reform has failed. African-American unemployment is still nearly double the rate of our White counterparts. Labor unions, once a great equalizer for workers, have shrunk, and inequality has grown.

Rich people in the United States are healthier than poor people. They live longer. They go to better schools, get better jobs, and generate more wealth. They are also more likely to be White than to be Black.

Our schools are more segregated than they were in the 1980s. Our prisons are darker. The Voting Rights Act, a landmark achievement of the civil rights movement, has been gutted.

These and other barriers to equality threaten our democracy.

The resegregation of our schools means that people of color and those who struggle with poverty are often forced to go to underfunded schools. Their education suffers. They aren't given adequate preparation for college or a trade school, and they ultimately make less money than their White counterparts.

A recent Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco study found that Black men and women earn persistently lower wages compared to their White counterparts, a gap that cannot be fully explained by differences in age, education, job type, or location.

So what can Congress do? We need to invest in housing programs that help desegregate communities once again. We need to make it easier for people of color to get federally backed loans to buy homes and finally do away with red lining.

We need to invest in public schools. We need to expand preschool education. We need to spend money on job training programs and public universities.

We need to increase the minimum wage, and we need to strengthen oversight of mortgage lenders.

We need to restore the Voting Rights Act, because people who cannot vote cannot lead.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to, if I can, just follow up a little bit on the Voting Rights Act.

Obviously, that is the foundation of a democracy, and it is rather amazing to me that all of us in this Congress are elected by the people. I tell people the greatest title is citizen. It is not Congressman; it is not President; it is citizen.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the gentleman to speak a little bit about what has that impact been about the Voting Rights Act, as he sees it today, and the fact that, for some reason, this Congress doesn't seem to understand that we still need the Voting Rights Act in 2018.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would say that, as we have all stated tonight, it apparently appears that we are going backwards in this country, and so why wouldn't the Voting Rights Act be under attack? It was finally the opportunity for African-American citizens to be full citizens.

The only right you are born with in the United States of America is the right to vote as an American citizen. You are born with that right, and yet it is stripped away through the gutting of the Voting Rights Act.

So what does that say to people who fall under the Voting Rights Act? It says that you are not equal, that you don't deserve the same rights as other Americans, that somehow you are less than a first-class citizen in this country, yet you can go to war for us, you can do other things, contribute to this society, but not be able to vote. The three-fifths compromise, we can go all the way back to that and talk about the inequality.

So we need people of goodwill on both sides of the issue, on both sides of the aisle, to understand how equality is arrived at and come together and do the things that we need to do in order to make this a more perfect Union. I believe in that. I have not always seen it, but I believe that we need to continue to strive to make this a more perfect Union, to live out the mantra of this great Nation.

This is the greatest country in the world, no question about it, absolutely incredible, but let's live up to it. Let's really live up to what this Nation stands for, because you don't need people who are citizens here that don't believe in what you are saying.

Every day, we get up and we pledge allegiance to the flag like every other resident, every other citizen in this country, but every once in a while it fails us. We need to stay vigilant. We at the Congressional Black Caucus will be the voice and be vigilant on this floor in this House for people throughout this country who seem to be on the wrong side of this issue.

□ 2115

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH). The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 6 minutes remaining.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, what others have heard this evening from the Congressional Black Caucus is sort of like a canary in the mine. The Kerner Report, when President Johnson established it 50 years ago, was an attempt to shine a light and to send a warning that we were two nations, one Black and one White. And for every Member who stood up here and spoke, they all talked about how proud they are, as Americans; and that we all recognize the beauty and the idea of America and what it has meant.

I come from the city of Philadelphia, where it all started. In those conversations, there is no question it started out as a very flawed document, where African Americans and women basically were left out of that discussion.

But as you think about what my good friend from Minnesota said as he laid out the historical aspect to where we are here in 2018 and the opportunity we have—because I do believe we have an opportunity, and I do believe it is not any more words on paper. It is not a report or anything. It is a question of what is in our hearts collectively.

I don't think this is a Democrat or Republican issue. I don't think this is a Black or White issue. I think this is an issue about inclusion and involvement. I think that when you go back to that report that talks about the underlying causes of the civil unrest in these communities across this country, I think that we all have an obligation to try to address those issues.

The issues are very fundamental. May you live in rural America, or urban America, or suburban America, you know, everybody needs quality

healthcare. Everyone needs a job opportunity. Everyone needs a good, solid education. And those things we should not take lightly. All of those things, we all need.

So what we, as the Congressional Black Caucus, attempted to do is continue to raise the consciousness and to get people to understand that we still have a lot of work to do. This should not be taken lightly; that we all recognize that though, as Dr. King used to say, we have come over here on different boats, we are in the same boat now; and that boat is America; that boat is we are in a much more competitive world than in 1968. This is 2018. The world has radically changed.

The question is: Are we going to be in the forefront of the change, or are we going to be in the back of change?

I like to believe we should be in the forefront of change. I like to believe that we all understand, as a country, that it is in our collective interests to work together and to make a difference. I am not saying to you it will be easy. And it was not easy in 1968.

As I said, President Johnson was a Democrat, but he did not heed the report the way he should have probably heeded it. But it is no use talking about the past.

The question is: How do we deal with the future, and where do we go?

We should applaud him and others for at least having the discussion. We should not be fearful of discussion. We should all recognize that we have some challenges ahead for us in the 21st century.

Again, I will repeat myself. It will not be easy. It will take a lot of work, and it will take us confronting those issues that we face today. It is not easy, as we have debated the issue about healthcare or the issue about jobs or the issue about education. Everybody wants to work. Everybody wants a quality job and a quality opportunity. No one wants to sit on the sidelines.

So we have a chance today, in my view, to take advantage of the opportunities. I hope we will, Mr. Speaker. I believe that all members of the Congressional Black Caucus strongly feel that way. I thank the chairman of our caucus for initiating these efforts that we have been doing for this last year or so. I really appreciate that opportunity.

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

HONORING PASTOR ED SEARS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 30 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Grace Baptist Church, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, paid tribute to its pastor of the past 37 years, Ed Sears, and his wife, Linda. Pastor Sears is transitioning out of his role as

senior pastor, and the members of the church, along with people from across the State, met to acknowledge the leadership and inspiration provided by Pastor Sears.

Pastor Sears is known as a servant of God who is held in high esteem by all who know him and his reputation. He is a person who made those around him feel loved. There is general agreement that the love that he shows others is a result of his commitment to and his relationship with Jesus Christ.

He has made a difference in the lives of thousands of others to whom he ministered whenever they were in need. He has been totally committed to his ministry and been a true role model for us all.

As he retires from a full-time ministry to face health challenges, we wish him well. We know that he will deal with these challenges in the same way he has lived his life thus far, with honor, integrity, strength, and faith that will inspire others.

May God continue to bless you, Pastor Sears.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

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

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. DEFAZIO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of medical procedure.

Ms. JACKSON LEE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and March 6 on account of representational duties in district relating to Hurricane Harvey recovery activities.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and March 6.

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

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1621. An act to require the Federal Communications Commission to establish a methodology for the collection by the Commission of information about commercial mobile service and commercial mobile data service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

S. 2372. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs; in addition, to the Committee on Natural Resources for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE
PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on March 5, 2018, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 535. To encourage visits between the United States and Taiwan at all levels, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, March 6, 2018, 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:

4157. A letter from the Under Secretary, Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act, Army case number 17-01, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1351; Public Law 97-258; (96 Stat. 926); to the Committee on Appropriations.

4158. A letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of General David G. Perkins, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

4159. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Office of the General Counsel, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — CPSC Acceptance of Third Party Laboratories: Revision to the Notice of Requirements for Prohibitions of Children's Toys and Child Care Articles Containing Specified Phthalates [Docket No.: CPSC-2017-0043] received February 23, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4160. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4161. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the national emergency with respect to the situation in Venezuela that was declared in Executive Order 13692 of March 8, 2015, is to continue in effect beyond March 8, 2018, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 202(d); (90 Stat. 1257) (H. Doc. No. 115—98); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

4162. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13288 of March 6, 2003, with respect to the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Zimbabwe

and other persons to undermine Zimbabwe's democratic processes or institutions, is to continue in effect beyond March 6, 2018, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 202(d); (90 Stat. 1257) (H. Doc. No. 115—100); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

4163. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the national emergency with respect to the actions and policies of persons that undermine democratic processes and institutions in Ukraine, that was declared in Executive Order 13660 of March 6, 2014, is to continue in effect beyond March 6, 2018, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 202(d); (90 Stat. 1257) (H. Doc. No. 115—99); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

4164. A letter from the Director, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — International Services Surveys: BE-120 Benchmark Survey of Transactions in Selected Services and Intellectual Property With Foreign Persons (RIN: 0691-AA87) received February 26, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4165. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Russian Sanctions: Addition of Certain Entities to the Entity List [Docket No.: 180112034-8034-01] (RIN: 0694-AH48) received February 22, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4166. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a notification of a designation of acting officer, and nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4167. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a notification of a nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4168. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's Fiscal Year 2017 Federal Information Security Modernization Act and Agency Privacy Management Report, pursuant to Public Law 113-283, 44 U.S.C. 3554(c); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4169. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting four notifications of nomination, action on nomination, change in previously submitted reported information, or discontinuation of service in acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4170. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting a notification of a designation of acting officer, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4171. A letter from the Vice-Chairman, U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting the Board's Strategic Plan for FY 2018-2022, FY 2017 Annual Performance Report, and Annual Performance Plan for FY 2018 (Final) and FY 2019 (Proposed), pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 306(a); Public Law 103-62, Sec. 3(a) (as

amended by Public Law 111-352, Sec. 2); (124 Stat. 3866) and 31 U.S.C. 1115(b); Public Law 111-352, Sec. 3; (124 Stat. 3867); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4172. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Foreign Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's direct final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Taxonomical Update for Orangutan [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-ES-2017-0081; 4500090024] (RIN: 1018-BC54) received February 26, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4173. A letter from the Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Migratory Bird Hunting; Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations on Certain Federal Indian Reservations and Ceded Lands for the 2017-18 Season [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-MB-2016-0051; FF09M21200-178-FXMB1231099BPP0] (RIN: 1018-BB40) received February 26, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4174. A letter from the Regulations Specialist, Office of Subsistence Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska — 2017-18 and 2018-19 Subsistence Taking of Fish Regulations [Docket No.: FWS-R7-SM-2015-0003; FXFR13350700640-167-FF07J00000; FBMS#4500096963] (RIN: 1018-BA76) received February 26, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4175. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Protected Resources, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants: Listing the Oceanic Whitetip Shark as Threatened Under the Endangered Species Act [Docket No.: 151110999-7999-03] (RIN: 0648-XE314) received February 26, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4176. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Protected Resources, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — List of Fisheries for 2018 [Docket No.: 170303230-8047-02] (RIN: 0648-BG72) received February 26, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4177. A letter from the Enforcement Specialist, Office of Law Enforcement, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Civil Penalties; 2018 Inflation Adjustments for Civil Monetary Penalties [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-LE-2017-0097; FF09L00200-FX-LE18110900000] (RIN: 1018-BC05) received February 26, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

4178. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Harmonization of Fire Protection Equipment Standards for Towing Vessels [Docket No.: USCG-2017-1060] (RIN: 1625-AC43) received February 22, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4179. A letter from the Chief, Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Extension of Import Restrictions Imposed on Certain Archaeological Material from Belize [CBP Dec. 18-02] (RIN: 1515-AE37) received February 23, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4180. A letter from the Deputy Inspector General for Audit Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's report titled "Review of Medicare Administrative Contractor Information Security Program Evaluations for Fiscal Year 2016", pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1395kk-1(e)(2)(C)(ii); Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title XVIII, Sec. 1874A(e)(2)(C)(ii) (as amended by Public Law 108-173, Sec. 912(a)); (117 Stat. 2388); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

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. ROE of Tennessee: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 4242. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a permanent VA Care in the Community Program, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 115-585). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. CHENEY: Committee on Rules. H. Res. 762. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1119) to establish the bases by which the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall issue, implement, and enforce certain emission limitations and allocations for existing electric utility steam generating units that convert coal refuse into energy, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1917) to allow for judicial review of any final rule addressing national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants for brick and structural clay products or for clay ceramics manufacturing before requiring compliance with such rule (Rept. 115-586). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Ways and Means discharged from further consideration. H.R. 2823 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. NEAL):

H.R. 5155. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to improve affordability of, undo sabotage with respect to, and increase access to health insurance coverage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POE of Texas (for himself and Mr. CICILLINE):

H.R. 5156. A bill to protect publicly owned trees from unnecessary destruction, maiming, or alteration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BISHOP of Michigan (for himself and Mr. SCHNEIDER):

H.R. 5157. A bill to ensure that certain incidents involving a covered employee that are reported to the title IX coordinator at an eligible institution of higher education have been reviewed by the president of the institution and not less than 1 additional member of the institution's board of trustees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself and Mr. POE of Texas):

H.R. 5158. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to request nominations for and make determinations regarding roads to be designated under the national scenic byways program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Mr. MCKINLEY):

H.R. 5159. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the refined coal production tax credit and modify the qualifying advanced coal project credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DESAULNIER (for himself and Mr. POE of Texas):

H.R. 5160. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of cancer care planning and coordination under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois (for herself,

Mr. MEEKS, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. POCAN, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. POLIS, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. NADLER, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. COHEN, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. WELCH, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Ms. MCCOLLUM):

H.R. 5161. A bill to require the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service to submit to Congress an annual report on the effects of gun violence on public health; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois (for herself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. GUTIERREZ,

Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. KEATING, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. PLASKETT, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California):

H.R. 5162. A bill to amend the Consumer Product Safety Act to remove the exclusion of pistols, revolvers, and other firearms from the definition of consumer product in order to permit the issuance of safety standards for such articles by the Consumer Product Safety Commission; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois (for herself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. COHEN, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ):

H.R. 5163. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the sale or other disposition of a firearm to, and the possession, shipment, transportation, or receipt of a firearm by, certain classes of high-risk individuals; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois (for herself, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. MOORE, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HASTINGS, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 5164. A bill to expand economic opportunities, improve community policing, and promote common-sense gun violence prevention in underserved communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, Financial Services, Ways and Means, Small Business, Oversight and Government Reform, Agriculture, Rules, and 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. TED LIEU of California:

H.R. 5165. A bill to prohibit entities from requiring individuals to submit to arbitration for disputes arising from a security breach, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. TED LIEU of California:

H.R. 5166. A bill to direct the Federal Trade Commission to review and potentially revise its standards for safeguarding customer information to ensure that such standards require certain consumer reporting agencies and service providers of such agencies to maintain sufficient safeguards against cyber attacks and related threats, to provide for additional authority to enforce such standards with respect to such agencies and providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, 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. MCCAUL (for himself and Mr. CASTRO of Texas):

H.R. 5167. A bill to provide for the termination of residential or motor vehicle leases and telephone service contracts for Foreign Service officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SOTO:

H.R. 5168. A bill to amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990

to establish seaweed as a high-priority research and extension area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. SOTO:

H.R. 5169. A bill to amend the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act to prioritize research on sensor and imager technology in agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. WESTERMAN:

H.R. 5170. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to reauthorize and reform the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LAHOOD (for himself, Mr. BACON, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Mr. KIHUEN):

H. Con. Res. 111. Concurrent resolution recognizing and supporting the efforts of the United Bid Committee to bring the 2026 Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup competition to Canada, Mexico, and the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CONAWAY (for himself and Mr. CONNOLLY):

H. Res. 763. A resolution calling upon the leadership of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to dismantle its labor camp system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

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. PALLONE:

H.R. 5155.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3. To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 5156.

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

Article I, Section 8, Subsection 18: the "Necessary and Proper" clause

By Mr. BISHOP of Michigan:

H.R. 5157.

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

Article I, Section VIII of the United States Constitution

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 5158.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CRAMER:

H.R. 5159.

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

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is in clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 5160.

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

Article 1, Section 8.

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

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 5161.

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

Article 3

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 5162.

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

Article 3

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 5163.

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

Article 3

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 5164.

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

Article 3

By Mr. TED LIEU of California:

H.R. 5165.

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

Article I, Section VIII, Clause XVIII

By Mr. TED LIEU of California:

H.R. 5166.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 provides Congress with the power to "regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

By Mr. McCAUL:

H.R. 5167.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. SOTO:

H.R. 5168.

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

Article 1, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SOTO:

H.R. 5169.

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

Article 1, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. WESTERMAN:

H.R. 5170.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 57: Mr. SOTO and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 103: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 130: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 131: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 173: Mr. PANETTA, Mr. AMODEI, and Ms. LEE.

H.R. 303: Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 501: Ms. SINEMA.

H.R. 553: Mr. HILL.

H.R. 559: Mrs. HANDEL.

H.R. 613: Mr. MACARTHUR and Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 630: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 644: Mr. DUFFY.

H.R. 681: Mr. MESSER.

H.R. 812: Mr. ESPAILLAT.

H.R. 820: Mr. MOOLENAAR and Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 846: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama and Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 878: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER and Mrs. BLACK.

H.R. 911: Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 936: Mr. KING of Iowa and Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 947: Mr. NEAL, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Ms. ROSEN.

H.R. 949: Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 959: Mr. THOMAS J. ROONEY of Florida, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 1017: Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 1027: Mr. FASO.

H.R. 1044: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 1079: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 1118: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.

H.R. 1150: Mr. MARSHALL.

H.R. 1223: Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. HASTINGS, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 1243: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 1267: Mr. PANETTA.

H.R. 1276: Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. ESTY of Connecticut, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 1330: Mr. BIGGS.

H.R. 1439: Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 1444: Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, and Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 1472: Ms. TITUS and Mr. DONOVAN.

H.R. 1475: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 1478: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. BASS, Mr. VELA, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 1494: Mr. LOUDERMILK and Mr. MEADOWS.

H.R. 1530: Mr. CRIST and Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 1553: Mr. STIVERS and Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas.

H.R. 1562: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 1596: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 1612: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. KIHUEN, and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 1661: Ms. TITUS and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 1683: Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 1692: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 1739: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H.R. 1772: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 1832: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. KIHUEN, Mr. SOTO, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, and Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 1876: Mr. DUNN.

H.R. 1902: Ms. DEGETTE.

H.R. 1969: Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 1982: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas and Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 1993: Mr. MACARTHUR.

H.R. 2004: Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 2077: Mr. ROSKAM.

H.R. 2276: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2293: Mr. GAETZ and Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 2319: Mr. HIGGINS of New York and Mr. McCAUL.

H.R. 2380: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 2392: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 2421: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H.R. 2436: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 2439: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. WALZ, and Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 2472: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 2477: Mr. SCHRADER.

H.R. 2583: Mr. LAWSON of Florida.

H.R. 2625: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.

H.R. 2670: Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 2740: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. ROSKAM, and Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 2801: Ms. SINEMA.

H.R. 2832: Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 2903: Ms. ROSEN and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.

H.R. 2999: Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 3030: Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 3079: Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 3087: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 3091: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 3174: Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.

H.R. 3282: Mr. McCaul.
H.R. 3409: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.
H.R. 3431: Mr. CULBERSON.
H.R. 3444: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 3464: Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. McCOLLUM, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. SOTO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KIHUEN, and Mr. BROWN of Maryland.
H.R. 3528: Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia.
H.R. 3545: Mrs. NOEM.
H.R. 3558: Mr. FASO and Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 3637: Mr. CAPUANO and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 3642: Mr. HIMES and Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.
H.R. 3654: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 3694: Mr. FORTENBERRY.
H.R. 3712: Mr. HARPER and Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 3887: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 3976: Mr. RATCLIFFE, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. POE of Texas, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESER, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.
H.R. 3987: Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 3988: Mr. CAPUANO.
H.R. 3994: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. MENG, Mr. RUSH, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 3999: Mr. KATKO and Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 4025: Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 4052: Mr. PANETTA.
H.R. 4057: Mr. SCHIFF and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4058: Mr. DENHAM.
H.R. 4101: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 4107: Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. NUNES.
H.R. 4137: Mr. POLIQUIN.
H.R. 4142: Mr. SIRE.
H.R. 4143: Ms. ADAMS and Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 4152: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 4153: Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 4207: Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 4223: Mr. MEADOWS and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 4229: Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. COLE, and Mr. ARRINGTON.
H.R. 4240: Mr. SABLAN and Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 4245: Mr. MEADOWS.
H.R. 4260: Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 4267: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. EMMER, Mr. BUDD, and Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 4268: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 4275: Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia.
H.R. 4287: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 4290: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 4311: Ms. CHENEY and Mr. JONES.
H.R. 4314: Mr. GAETZ.
H.R. 4316: Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 4403: Mr. BOST and Mr. MARSHALL.
H.R. 4471: Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 4489: Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 4548: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 4556: Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 4565: Ms. TENNEY.
H.R. 4638: Mr. ENGEL.
H.R. 4655: Mr. MARSHALL.
H.R. 4677: Ms. ROSEN, Mr. NORMAN, and Mrs. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 4702: Mr. NORMAN and Mr. GAETZ.
H.R. 4706: Mr. PALLONE, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. GUTHRIE, and Ms. SANCHEZ.
H.R. 4721: Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 4732: Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. PAULSEN.
H.R. 4751: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 4837: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 4846: Mr. PETERSON and Ms. LEE.
H.R. 4850: Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 4851: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 4854: Mrs. DEMINGS.
H.R. 4856: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CLEAVER, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H.R. 4909: Mr. MAST, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms. STEFANIK, Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. HECK, Mr. COMER, Mr. BARR, and Mr. FORTENBERRY.

H.R. 4929: Mr. GROTHMAN and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 4932: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 4934: Mr. MASSIE and Mr. POE of Texas.
H.R. 4943: Mr. SMITH of Texas.
H.R. 4949: Mr. MAST.
H.R. 4953: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 4973: Mr. SOTO, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, and Mr. JONES.
H.R. 4986: Mr. WALDEN.
H.R. 4997: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania and Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 5001: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 5006: Mr. ARRINGTON.
H.R. 5009: Mr. MEADOWS.
H.R. 5028: Mr. JONES.
H.R. 5041: Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia.
H.R. 5071: Mr. MARSHALL.
H.R. 5080: Mrs. WALORSKI.
H.R. 5090: Mr. ENGEL and Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 5095: Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 5104: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER and Mr. THORNBERRY.
H.R. 5105: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 5122: Mr. RASKIN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.J. Res. 31: Mrs. TORRES.
H.J. Res. 61: Mr. MARSHALL.
H.J. Res. 130: Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, and Mrs. HARTZLER.
H. Con. Res. 8: Mr. LATTA.
H. Con. Res. 110: Mrs. RADEWAGEN.
H. Res. 31: Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas.
H. Res. 257: Mr. MARSHALL.
H. Res. 307: Mr. GIANFORTE.
H. Res. 720: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H. Res. 730: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. KIND.
H. Res. 731: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H. Res. 732: Mr. SARBANES.
H. Res. 740: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H. Res. 746: Ms. ROSEN.



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Senate

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:

Almighty God, the sovereign Lord of nations, empower our lawmakers to be as faithful to others as You have been to them. May they be willing to show patience in dealing with the shortcomings of others in the same way that You have shown them mercy and long-suffering. Lord, help them to seek to respect the beliefs and ideas of others, being tolerant even to those with whom they may disagree. Give them the wisdom to refuse to do to others what they would not want done to themselves.

Lord, we commit this day to You, totally desiring to work for Your glory.

We pray in Your Holy 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.

CONGRATULATING KENTUCKY COLLEGE BASKETBALL TEAMS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, there is a simple reason nearly every Kentuckian looks forward to March—college basketball. I would like to take a moment to recognize several teams that are already making the State proud by winning their conference tournaments.

This weekend, the women of the University of Louisville won their first-ever ACC tournament title. Finishing the regular season with a record of 29 to 2, the Cardinals are currently ranked third in the Nation. Led by ACC Coach of the Year Jeff Walz and ACC Player of the Year Asia Durr, these talented women are looking to add yet another title.

So are the Murray State Racers. Its men's team won the Ohio Valley Conference championship and earned its first NCAA tournament appearance since 2012. It will look to build on the longest winning streak in the Nation.

Also in Louisville, the Bellarmine Knights men's team earned its second straight conference championship and a two-seed in the NCAA Division II tournament.

At Thomas More College, both the men's and women's teams are celebrating conference championships which earned them spots in the NCAA Division III tournaments.

Lindsey Wilson College won its conference title and is headed back to the NAIA Division I tournament for the first time since advancing to the Fab Four in 2013.

The Union College men's team clinched its fifth consecutive conference title. The Kentucky Christian Lady Knights took home the Mideast Region title as well.

I congratulate all of these conference-winning Kentucky teams, their coaches, and, of course, their dedicated fans.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on another matter, we will vote on the nominations of three more talented individuals today whom the President has asked to serve as Federal district judges: Karen Scholer for the Northern District of Texas, Tilman Self for the Middle District of Georgia, and Terry Doughty for the Western District of

Louisiana. These are three excellent nominees, and I encourage all of our colleagues to vote in support of each of them.

TAX REFORM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on one final matter, it has been 73 days since President Trump signed historic tax reform into law.

It feels as though it has been longer than that because, practically every day, another major national employer announces a new commitment to invest in American workers because of tax reform. Every day, we hear about more local businesses realizing new savings and putting it toward equipment, expansion, and employees. Every day, we hear about how bonuses, rising wages, expanded benefits, and lower taxes are giving middle-class families a whole lot more breathing room. Yet, every day, we are reminded that some of our friends across the aisle are still desperately trying to minimize this good news. Democratic leaders have tried to say that these new jobs, raises, bonuses, and business expansions amount to no more than "crumbs."

I leave the final verdict to the hard-working families across the country, including the many Kentuckians from whom I hear. In the meantime, the economic data are painting quite an optimistic picture.

Last week, the Labor Department announced that weekly jobless claims had reached a 48-year low. Let me repeat that. Fewer Americans are filing for unemployment today than at any time since 1969. The labor market is tightening; employers are competing for talent; and workers and their families are coming out on top.

In January, Americans' real disposable income rose more quickly than it had since April of 2015. That is the biggest jump in spending money available to American families, accounting for tax rates and inflation, in nearly 3

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



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years. That is more money to save for a home purchase or a college fund. It is more to save for retirement or to spend on a family vacation. U.S. consumer confidence is higher today than it has been since the year 2000, and, last week, news broke that U.S. manufacturing is expanding at its fastest pace since 2004.

Look, it is not complicated. The bill passed by the Republicans in Congress last year was designed with a very simple philosophy in mind: that when we put more of Americans' hard-earned money back in their own pockets, they will know what best to do with it, that when we level the playing field and take weight off the shoulders of small businesses, they will help their communities thrive, and that when we welcome investment from entrepreneurs and job creators, instead of discouraging it, the economy will respond in kind.

The idea was simple enough, but as we are already seeing, because the Republicans in Congress and the President were able to overcome lockstep partisan opposition on the other side and get tax reform across the finish line, that simple idea is having an extraordinary impact.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Karen Gren Scholer, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant Democratic leader.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

DACA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today is the day—March 5—the deadline imposed by President Trump on those who are being protected and allowed to stay in the United States under the DACA Program.

It was last September 5 when President Trump's Attorney General held a press conference and said: That is it. The protection that is currently given

to 780,000 young people in America to allow them to stay in this country and pursue their dreams will end on March 5 of 2018—today—780,000 who were brought to the United States as infants, toddlers, children, and teenagers, who have lived their lives in this country, who have gone to school, who have never had a serious run-in with the law, who have gone through criminal background checks, come up with \$500 filing fees, and who were given permission under an Executive order by President Obama to legally stay in this country for 2 years at a time. During that period, they would not be deported, and they would be allowed to work.

Who are these young people? They are known as the Dreamers, although President Trump hates that term. They are known as the Dreamers because they represent young people who went to school in America, stood up in their classroom every day and pledged allegiance to that flag. This is the only country they have ever known. This was to be the country of their future, but at some point in their lives, a member of their family sat down and said: We have to have a serious conversation. You see, we never filed the papers when we brought you to this country as an infant, and right now you are undocumented in the United States of America.

What that means is that any minute, there could be a knock on the door and you and perhaps your entire family would be asked to leave. I introduced a bill called the DREAM Act 17 years ago. Senator HATCH was my cosponsor when I introduced it. The purpose of the DREAM Act was to say to these young people: We will give you a chance. Though you are illegal in the eyes of the law in the United States—undocumented—we will give you a chance to earn your way to legal status, give you a chance someday to be a citizen of the United States. It will not be easy. There is no helping hand for you. If you want to go to college, there will be no Federal assistance for you. You are going to have to make it on your own. You will have to work and work harder than perhaps the person sitting next to you at their desk in high school. See if you can do it. If you can, we will give you your chance.

That is what the DREAM Act said. It passed with a majority vote in the Senate many times, but it never quite made it to 60 votes, which it needs to become the law of the land.

President Obama, when he was a Senator in this Chamber, was my colleague from Illinois. He cosponsored the DREAM Act with me. So the time came when he was elected President, and I wrote him a letter. Dick Lugar, Republican of Indiana, joined me in that letter. He supported the DREAM Act when he served in the Senate. We wrote to President Obama and said: Can you do anything to give these young people a chance, to spare them from deportation? He worked on it for

1 year. Then President Obama came up with something called DACA, a program by Executive order that gave these young people their chance—780,000 of them went through the background check, paid their filing fee, and proved they were eligible.

They were spared for 2 years at a time and allowed to stay in this country. During the course of the campaign, President Trump said many strong words about immigration. We remember them well—it is hard to forget—the words about the wall, words about Mexican rapists, on and on, but he seemed to have a soft spot in his heart for these kids. Many times he would say: We have to give them a chance. They are different.

The very first time I met President Donald Trump was minutes after he had been sworn in. It was at a luncheon here in the Capitol.

I went up to him and said: Congratulations. I want to thank you for the kind words you said about the Dreamers and those protected by DACA.

He said: DICK, don't worry about those kids. We are going to take care of those kids.

That is what President Trump said on January 20, 2017. I brought it up to him several times too. It is an issue that is important to me, but, more importantly, it is an issue that is critical to the future of these young people.

Then, what happened on September 5 of last year, just 9 months after the President was sworn in? His Attorney General held a press conference and said: That is the end of the protection for these young people. As of March 5, 2018, no protection.

Then he challenged Congress. He said: Pass a law. Do what you are supposed to do here in the House and Senate. Pass a law that will protect these young people.

A number of us took up the President's challenge. We had a bipartisan effort, six of us—three Democrats and three Republicans—and we worked through some really hard issues on immigration and on these young people. I want to salute my colleagues who were part of that: LINDSEY GRAHAM, Republican of South Carolina; JEFF FLAKE, a Republican of Arizona; CORY GARDNER, a Republican of Colorado; joined with myself and MICHAEL BENNET, a Democrat of Colorado; BOB MENENDEZ, a Democrat of New Jersey, and we put together an approach that gave these young people protection and a fighting chance to prove they deserve to stay in America.

We felt pretty good about it. The President called a meeting in the White House on January 9—I remember these dates. I will always remember them—with about 25 Members of Congress, Democrats and Republicans, House and Senate. He held an open press conference for an hour, which is unusual and rarely done in the White House.

We talked about DACA and we talked about Dreamers and we talked about

what was going to happen next, since the President had given us a deadline of today, March 5, to do something.

The President outlined what he wanted to see, and then he said in front of the television cameras: Send me the bill, and I will sign it. I will take the heat on this one. That was January 9. So a number of us, the six I mentioned earlier, came together immediately that same day and said: Let's finish this bill, and let's get it in his hands as quickly as possible.

By January 11, 2 days later, we were ready. We reached a compromise, and it truly was a compromise. Parts of it I didn't care for at all, but that is what we do around here if Democrats and Republicans are going to produce something that might become a law. We called the President. We met the President—Senator GRAHAM and I and a number of others, and he totally rejected what we had done. In fact, the President went on to reject five other bipartisan proposals to try to solve this problem.

This is the same President who said on January 9 of this year, "Send me a bill, and I will sign it," who turned down bipartisan option after bipartisan option. He just said no.

We had a vote on the floor of the Senate. It has been about 3 weeks ago now. It was a vote on four different proposals to deal with this challenge. Not one of those proposals received 60 votes.

The one I had hoped for, a bill with a version of the Dream Act, was put together by Senator COONS and Senator MCCAIN and brought to the floor. I remember it had 52 votes. It needed 60 votes. It fell short. The bipartisan compromise led by Senator ROUNDS and Senator KING with the President's opposition ended up with 54 votes—6 votes short of what it needed to pass. Then the President's own immigration proposal came up here on the floor of the Senate. Now, there are 49 Democrats and 51 Republicans in the Senate. The President's proposal came up and got 39 votes—60 votes in opposition. It was a rejection by his own party and the Democrats in the Senate.

So here we are on March 5. The deadline is here. No bill has passed the Senate. The House will not even consider the measure—will not take up any version of the measure. What is at stake? There are 780,000 young people protected by DACA, which officially, by President Trump's order, ends today.

They have one ray of hope, perhaps two. Two courts have said they are going to suspend this abolition of DACA until we hear the arguments of the President's authority in the Constitution. So there is a temporary—and I underline temporary—injunction in place while these cases are pending, but I can tell you as a Member of the Senate and as a lawyer, no one—no one—can predict how long that protection will last. Is it a matter of days or weeks or months, at best?

That is what these young people live with, this uncertainty.

This humanitarian crisis in this country—and I call it that—was created by President Trump on September 5. He has failed to agree to six different bipartisan proposals to solve the problem he created, and now these lives hang in the balance.

Well, who are they? Who are these young people?

I was with one of them earlier today. Her name is Ana Flores. Ana grew up in Aurora, IL, and went to the public schools there. She is a very bright young woman who was brought to the United States at the age of 5 from Mexico by her parents. She is undocumented in America and lives under the protection of DACA.

What did she do with her life?

She went to the Illinois Institute of Technology, one of the best in the Nation, and she won a civil engineering degree there. Clark Dietz is an engineering firm in Illinois that stepped up and said: We want that bright young woman on our staff as an engineer, and they hired her.

I met her for the first time today. She is a wonderful person. She struggled against the odds all of her life. She is protected by DACA, a program that officially, under President Trump's edict, ends today.

Will Illinois be a better State, Chicago be a better city, the United States be a better nation with this young lady and her engineering talents at work for us? Of course, there is no question about it. Why in the world would we ever want to deport someone who has gone through our educational system and excelled like this young lady?

She is not the only one, by any means. This is a photo of Elizabeth Vilchis. She is the 109th Dreamer whom I have spoken about on the floor of the U.S. Senate. She was brought to the United States at the age of 7. She grew up in Yonkers, NY. As a child, she heard about STEM subjects—science, technology, engineering, and math. She decided to make that her life's work. She excelled in math and science and decided she would be part of the future of this country and took on these important subjects. She said: "From that point forward I made pursuing a career in STEM my responsibility, as an American."

During high school, Elizabeth was a member of the Honor Society, the Key Club, the Architecture, Construction and Engineering Program. She was editor of the yearbook and also played on the volleyball team. She graduated high school with an Advanced Regents diploma.

She was then accepted into the Honors College at City University, New York City College.

Remember, these Dreamers—these undocumented students—don't qualify for Federal assistance to go to school as most kids do. They have to find another way to work and save their money or take private loans.

She received a Community Service Award from the School of Engineering 4 years in a row for her work organizing engineering education programs for low-income students. She received a Student Leader Award for her work with an engineering student association. She was named Volunteer of the Year 4 years in a row for managing the Manhattan robotics competition.

I have seen those robotics competitions. A lot of young people in high school do some amazing things in these competitions, and it launches a career and a life in the STEM subjects.

Elizabeth graduated with a double major in mechanical engineering and political science. She worked as an engineer for Samsung for 2 years. Then she founded a nonprofit organization focused on creating funding opportunities for early stage technology startups. Today, Elizabeth's nonprofit has over 700 members. To date, they have raised over \$8 million to grow their companies.

She wrote me a letter and Elizabeth said:

To me DACA is my opportunity to give back to the United States and my family the way I dreamed of since I was 10 years old. It's the ability to help solve the STEM talent shortage after 15 years of preparing for it and being told it was impossible. It's the power to say "No" to going back to the shadows and "Yes" to serving as a role model for young girls across the country who aspire to be engineers and entrepreneurs.

People like Elizabeth are the reason why more than 400 business leaders signed a letter to Congress urging us to pass the bipartisan Dream Act.

The letter says:

Dreamers are vital to the future of our companies and our economy. With them, we grow and create jobs. They are part of why we will continue to have global competitive advantage.

It would be a personal tragedy for us to deport Elizabeth Vilchis, but the decision of President Trump to abolish the program that protects her, sadly, makes that a possibility. If this injunction by the court is lifted, at that moment, there could be a knock on her door—or perhaps on the door of the company that hires her or her engineering firm—and she could be told that her time is up. Under President Trump, she has to leave the United States of America.

President Trump created this crisis. Instead of working toward a solution, he has rejected every bipartisan effort that has been sent his way to save the Dreamers.

What will happen next? Do we have to stand by and watch as these families are divided, as talented young people like Elizabeth and Ana are deported? Is that what we are all about? Is that what the President meant when he told me "We'll take care of those kids"? That is what it has come down to.

It is a sad reality that all across America, hundreds of thousands of these young people now live in fear of deportation. They should be living, as Elizabeth said, outside the shadows and

as part of America and its future. What can we do about it? I am at a loss.

Unless and until this President accepts the responsibility to help us solve the problem he created, I am afraid we will never be able to rally the necessary Republican votes to make this a reality. It is up to President Trump.

In the part of the world that I come from in the Middle West, there is a saying that I am going to clean up a little bit, and it goes something like this: Any old mule can kick down a barn door, but it takes a carpenter to build one. This President has kicked down DACA, kicked it down to the dirt, and this is the day—the deadline that he set. The question is, Does he have the will or the heart to rebuild it?

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII and the order of March 1, the confirmation vote on the Doughty nomination occur following the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to S. 2155, with all other provisions of the previous order in effect.

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

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I enjoyed listening to the minority whip, and I don't believe the President is as heartless as he is indicating, but the President does want the American laws to be observed. There are ways of getting that done, and I think he is doing some of that to see that it is done. I happen to empathize very much with Senator DURBIN from Illinois and have long been a supporter of the Dreamers.

(The remarks of Mr. HATCH pertaining to the introduction of S. 2495 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

GUN SAFETY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, it is nice to hear my colleague's words. I would also want to mention a few things about the same issue.

Mr. President, it has been nearly 3 weeks since the shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL. Still, unfortunately, the majority leader hasn't committed to any floor time for the debate on the issue of gun safety—no time to debate universal background checks, a policy that over 90 percent of Americans support, including the vast majority of gun owners; no time to debate protective orders to allow law enforcement to temporarily disarm individuals who have shown credible signs of being a harm to themselves or others, especially relevant after Parkland; no time to at least have a debate on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines on the floor of the Senate.

The kids who survived that horrific shooting are speaking up and speaking out and are demanding that we address this issue head-on. I believe they are moving the conscience of the Nation. I met with them. They are fine young men and women. Instead of just cursing the darkness after what they went through with the losses of friends and colleagues they suffered, they are trying to light a candle, urging us to debate and do something real. Yet, the majority leader is moving to a banking bill today with no promise of time to consider a package of commonsense gun safety measures.

We need to debate them on the floor. We can't just try to do one little bill by UC with no debate or put it into some other big bill. This needs a national debate. This issue is consuming America, and for the Senate to turn its back and do nothing, or to try to just slip some minor measure through, doesn't work.

Last week, America watched President Trump whipsaw on gun safety issues in a matter of days. All of America felt pretty good when the President met with a bipartisan group. He seemed to be open to tackling gun safety in a bipartisan way in a nationally televised meeting. Then, the next day, he met with the NRA behind closed doors and seems to once again have backed off.

It is a show we have seen before, and it is getting old. Too many times we have watched the President say the right things when the cameras are on but refuse to follow through the moment they are switched off—oftentimes doing a 180-degree reversal of his position.

On the issue of gun safety, just like the issue of immigration, we could find a bipartisan consensus. It is very possible, but it requires the President to show some leadership, some follow-through, and some consistency. Otherwise, Congress will do what it has done after every mass shooting for the past decade—nothing.

Those brave, young students will be here in a few weeks, having watched Congress do nothing again. What a black mark that will be—lowering the even low ratings of this body.

REPUBLICAN TAX BILL

Mr. President, on to another matter, the Republican tax bill. Over and over, we have heard the Republican mantra that their tax bill was aimed at giving working Americans a boost. Yet every analysis showed that when you looked at the actual policy, the lion's share of the tax cuts are going to corporations and the richest 1 percent. According to one study, 83 percent of the benefits from the Republican tax bill go to the top 1 percent of earners.

Don't worry, our Republican friends say, that money will trickle down to workers, but trickle-down economics has never worked. It has failed time and again. Most of our Republican colleagues are even afraid to admit that the majority of the tax cuts go to the very wealthy. They simply say it is

helping working people, but their mechanism of trickle-down is something they will not utter in public.

Instead of giving workers major wage increases, hiring new workers, or investing in new equipment and research, the most popular use of the savings from the tax bill for corporations is corporate share buybacks. That is from the big corporations. Already, big corporations have announced more than \$200 billion in share buybacks this year. We just started March, and already, corporations are on pace to spend over \$1 trillion this year buying back their own stock.

The problem here is, share buybacks don't really help workers. They don't really help grow the economy. They are a quick way for a big corporation to take more of their stock off the market, raising the value of the shares. Who benefits? Well, corporate executives who own lots of these shares and wealthy shareholders who hold the vast preponderance of the shares.

As one economist told Bloomberg, "You're not going to get the macroeconomic benefit the administration thought it was going to get from its tax cuts. It's going to go to the areas that don't stimulate growth," namely, buybacks, dividends. An analysis by Just Capital, which the New York Times called "one of the most detailed accountings to date" of how companies are spending the windfall from tax reform, finds that "just 6% of capital allocated so far is going to [employees], while 58% is going to shareholders in the form of dividends, share buy-backs, or retained earnings." That is 6 percent for the workers and nearly 60 percent to share buybacks and other corporate benefits.

Today, the Joint Economic Committee, led by our wonderful ranking member, Senator HEINRICH, pointed out that if you distributed the savings that went to just one big company—Berkshire Hathaway, which gained \$29 billion as a result of the tax bill—you could give a \$1,000 bonus to 29 million Americans.

This is amazing. That is the equivalent of every employee in Arizona, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia combined from just one company's worth of savings. The public is beginning to realize what is going on here. They see they are putting their children and grandchildren into deep debt, not to benefit themselves, the workers, preponderantly, but to benefit corporate leadership, owners of shares—the vast preponderance of whom are in the top 10 percent of American wealth.

Corporations are not putting the vast preponderance of the money where they should be—raising the salaries of workers or increasing productivity of the company by investing in new machinery and new techniques. No; it is that quick hit, the stock buyback.

It goes to show how beneficial tax reform could have been if it were aimed

at the middle class and those struggling to reach it. Instead, the Republicans made a conscious effort to give corporations and the wealthiest Americans the bulk of the tax cuts and promised it would trickle down to everyone else. Unfortunately, past is prologue, and corporate America will invest in what is best for corporate America, while working America is getting left behind.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator for Texas.

ECONOMIC GROWTH, REGULATORY RELIEF, AND
CONSUMER PROTECTION BILL

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, this week, we will be voting on an important piece of bipartisan legislation that recently passed out of the Senate Banking Committee, led by our colleague, Chairman MIKE CRAPO.

The bill is called the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act. The purpose of the bill is to rightsize the onerous regulations that are currently imposed on community and independent banks and that stifle their ability to loan money to people who need access to credit in order to start a business or to grow a small business.

Under the current law famously known as Dodd-Frank, these smaller banks are often treated just like the largest banks and financial institutions in our economy. That doesn't make any sense at all. Main Street, we need to remind some of our colleagues, is not Wall Street.

The bill would make changes to reflect that important distinction. I can't tell you how many of my small bankers in Texas have told me they had to hire additional personnel, not to make more loans, just to comply with the onerous overregulation coming out of Washington, DC.

Unfortunately, we lost over 2,000 banks nationwide since the end of 2010. Two thousand banks have gone out of business, either as a result of a merger with a larger bank that could sustain the additional cost of complying with these regulations or those that have just given up and said: We can't cut it because of the costs, and we are hanging up our spurs. In Texas, 165 bank charters have vanished during that same timeframe—a 26-percent reduction. Like I said, some of the decline is due to mergers with larger banks, but there have also been a number of bank failures.

We all heard about too big to fail, but some institutions were deemed essentially too small to save. They were the ones left behind and forgotten under Dodd-Frank. Because of the regulatory burdens, some small banks said enough is enough and opted to get out of the lending business altogether. You know who ends up paying the price and who ends up getting hurt? It is the married couple who wants to borrow money to buy their first home or, as I said earlier, a business that wants to expand and hire more people. Those are the people who ultimately get hurt.

In this bill we are considering this week, we are trying to change that situation. No less than former Congressman Barney Frank—the Democratic author of the original law—has emphasized the point that we need now to remember: The bill we are voting on keeps in place rules and regulations that were imposed on large Wall Street banks after the financial crisis. In other words, the big banks on Wall Street were the ones that helped contribute to the financial crisis, and they are the ones that will continue to be regulated under Dodd-Frank, but the community and regional banks that were, in essence, the collateral damage to the great recession of 2008, following the big financial crisis, will finally see some needed and welcomed relief. Rigorous stress testing of large financial institutions will continue. Congressman Frank has said it would be “wholly inaccurate” to claim otherwise.

So when some try to distort the bill's purpose and the provisions in the days ahead, I think it is important to keep that in mind and don't buy what they are selling. This bill will mostly, as I said, affect smaller community banks, which clearly don't fall under the same category as the titans of global finance.

Last year, the Banking Committee solicited input from a broad array of stakeholders. The committee's idea was to say: Hey, all of you out there who greatly suffered under Dodd-Frank, how can we reduce the burdens you face? Those are the kind of questions all of us need to be asking back in our States.

After extensive negotiations at all levels, and after hearing not just from financial entities great and small but also from consumer groups, the result is the bipartisan legislation we will soon consider on the Senate floor.

The bill was formally introduced by a group of 10 Democrats and 10 Republicans. You don't get much more bipartisan than that. I know the Senator from Idaho, the chairman of the committee, has had productive discussions as well with my friend and fellow Texan Chairman HENSARLING on the House side, who heads up the House Financial Services Committee.

While the new provisions will help community banks, credit unions, as well as midsize and regional banks, they will also ensure that key consumer protections remain in place. Some of these protections will even increase for consumers who have fallen on hard financial times or who are victims of fraud. Veterans and seniors particularly will benefit.

Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell has agreed that this common-sense bill will provide significant regulatory relief, and his predecessor, Janet Yellen, said it was a move in a good direction.

While I would like to go further and provide additional relief from Dodd-Frank, we should nonetheless pass as much as we can and help America's

local lenders build small businesses and strengthen our local communities.

Let's get this bill—which is supported by a variety of stakeholders, including the Texas Independent Bankers Association—across the finish line this week.

I wish to especially congratulate and thank our colleague from Idaho for all of his hard work, and I hope that all of us can emulate that hard work on a bipartisan basis to get this bill across the Senate floor and ultimately to the President for his signature.

TAX REFORM

Mr. President, I would like to shift gears for a moment and discuss a matter that my friends back home in Texas are talking about a lot, and that is the benefits of tax reform.

I happened to walk out here just as the Democratic leader, the Senator from New York, was saying that tax reform is not working. Well, I note that his message seems to be a little out of sync with the news, which in part reported today that the number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits is at its lowest level in more than 49 years. In other words, our economy is finally growing again, and it is working again for the people who needed the jobs and needed the income that are provided by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

Sometimes I wonder whether our Democratic friends, who took great political risk by voting uniformly to a person to oppose the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, are worried not that it will not work but that it will work and they will be proved completely wrong in anticipating what the impact of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will be. In particular, Ms. PELOSI, the minority leader of the House, said that these were crumbs—crumbs. Well, I think she will be proved wrong, and that will be to the great benefit of all of the people of America.

So everyone remembers, this was not an easy lift. We passed the first tax reform in more than 30 years. The immediate consequences of the bill have been transformative. In other words, we just did this in December, but we have already seen encouraging signs.

My constituents in Texas know as well as anyone—just ask a man by the name of Scott McDonald, who called my office last week. Scott owns a residential roofing company in Burleson, which is near Dallas. It is called F-Wave, and its mission is to “create the best [roofing] shingle the world has ever seen. Period.” That is Scott's dream. Do you know what Scott told us over the phone? He said that his 47 employees are really feeling the positive impact in their paychecks. He said: “There are a lot of happy people around here.”

People are happy because of the reduced tax rates. Now that the IRS has updated its withholding tables, in February people saw the first boost in their take-home pay they have seen in a long, long time.

Scott also said that the positive climate has created a lot of incentive for

his company to invest and grow. If you think about it, looking at what has happened in the stock market and, more importantly, what it has done to 401(k)s and pension plans and people's savings, there is a lot of enthusiasm and newfound confidence in the American economy, and that is an unequivocally good thing. Scott sees that in his place of business. He said that it has created a lot of incentive for his company to invest and grow, and that is good for the people who will benefit from those jobs. He is looking to hand out bonuses when the company's fiscal year ends at the end of this month, and he is hoping that a new facility his company is building will create jobs for as many as 500 people. You heard me right earlier. He said 47 people work there now, and he is hoping that this new facility will create jobs for as many as 500 people.

Scott, we appreciate your story, and we are glad you took the time to share it.

Back home in Texas, we are trying to keep track of all the tax reform successes, but there are so many, sometimes it is hard to keep up.

In West Texas, El Paso Electric has just announced that homeowners will get new refunds on their electric bills due to the lower tax rate. Seniors, people on fixed incomes, will actually see their utility bills go down because of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. What great news.

In Helotes, which is right outside of San Antonio, my friend, Representative WILL HURD, who represents that area, tells us that Jeff and Mary Marsh, the owners of two coffee shops, are particularly thrilled. They are passing along the tax savings directly to their staff of 11 employees in the form of increased hourly wages, benefits packages, and bonus programs. They hope to upgrade their systems and equipment and expand with new locations too.

Stories like these sure don't sound like "Armageddon." That is the term House Minority Leader PELOSI used to describe the tax reforms last year, in addition to calling them "crumbs." She called them "Armageddon" and "crumbs." Well, I am not sure how those two go together, but she and other Democrats did their dead-level best to scare the living daylights out of the American people and to tell them that this would not work and that it would actually hurt them.

I heard the Democratic leader, my friend from New York, Senator SCHUMER, out here talking about how money that is being brought back from overseas isn't being invested properly here in the United States, as if it were the government's money. The whole point is that this is not the government's money, this is money earned by the people and the businesses that take the risks and that we need to succeed so that our country will succeed and we will continue to grow so that the American dream can remain alive.

It is almost as if they think that any money saved as a result of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is somehow stolen from the clutches of the Federal Government that knows how to spend that money better than they do. Well, I certainly have a different view.

I guess, though, our Democratic colleagues were not totally off base in mentioning Armageddon because the tax cuts did spell doom for progressive rationales and excuses for not cutting taxes and making our system more competitive globally. It really was Armageddon when you consider what it did to their outrageous arguments.

Our reforms have exploded the notion that the only way government can ensure prosperity is with higher taxes. Again, it is based on this crazy idea that the money you earn is not really yours to keep, it is the Federal Government's, and the government will only let you keep a certain amount of it, and that when we cut taxes, it actually somehow is not money that is yours in the first place. It seems like it is completely reverse logic.

The bill's well-documented effects have killed the ludicrous claims we heard before Christmas that Americans who faced stagnant wages for years wouldn't really benefit from the raises or that companies are incapable or unwilling to actually give those raises or invest in their businesses and create new jobs. I wonder what the critics have to say about all this now. They have mostly been quiet since the good news started rolling in—although I guess, listening to my friend from New York, they have not given up entirely.

I wonder what they have to say to organizations like the Health Care Service Corporation, which operates Blue Cross Blue Shield in my State. Thanks to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, it has announced a \$1.5 billion initiative to make health insurance more affordable. This \$1.5 billion initiative to make health insurance more affordable comes as more good news to men and women like those in my State who have struggled to pay for healthcare.

I wonder what the naysayers have to say to this one lady in particular. I am thinking about somebody from Lewisville, TX. She recently contacted me and preferred not to be identified. Originally in my remarks, I was going to mention her name, but out of respect for her privacy, let me just tell her story and leave her name out of it. She had surgery a while back and had to borrow money up front to pay for it. On top of her student loans, this stressed her out. She was pretty anxious. She was wondering: How am I going to pay these bills? Well, in her note that she sent to my office, she said that she is extremely grateful for the reduced taxes because now she brings home an additional \$125 in each paycheck—\$125. That \$125 helps her pay the bills she was so worried about.

I hope our friends across the aisle who opposed this bill uniformly—every single one of them voted against it—I

hope they will listen not to our claims but, rather, to the evidence and realize that this \$125 to this woman from Lewisville, TX, is not crumbs; it is the difference between living in fear that she will not be able to meet her obligations and living in peace knowing that she is going to be able to meet those responsibilities. Her story is America's story, too, and it is a snapshot of what is occurring in the economy.

Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said last week that "some of the headwinds the U.S. economy faced in previous years have [now] turned into tailwinds." The economy continues to pick up steam.

I have already mentioned that the number of people making unemployment claims is at its lowest level in the last 49 years, but when you look at consumer confidence, when you look at the stock market, when you look at businesses willing to invest in new plants and equipment and you see the benefits of employers competing for labor—you know, one of the benefits of seeing unemployment so low and the economy growing again is that employers are going to have to start bidding up for the workers they need in order to do the job. What that means is that wages, which have been stagnant for so many years, are now going to grow again. So in addition to the lower rates, people will have more take-home pay. They are going to see more take-home pay in addition because of the increased wages they are going to be able to demand for their hard work.

These are great and positive signs, but we have to keep telling the good stories because they so often get drowned out by the scare tactics and the hyperbole that comes from those who seem to be afraid—not that this will not work but, rather, that it will work and they will be proved terribly wrong.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

FLORIDA HURRICANE DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, it has been almost 6 months since Hurricane Irma struck Florida. It has been about a month since we passed the most recent disaster supplemental appropriations bill, which finally included the money for Florida's fisheries, citrus growers, and communities across the State that we have been fighting for since day one, since the storm passed.

Today, I spoke to the Secretary of Commerce, Wilbur Ross, and I asked him to immediately release this critical funding to help the people of our State. Florida's fishermen are still waiting for their help too.

Hurricane Irma caused extensive damage to vessels, facilities, docks, equipment, and gear, especially in the Keys. Many in the spiny lobster industry lost all of their traps. The disaster supplemental appropriations gave NOAA \$200 million for Federal fishery disasters like the one that Secretary Ross declared for Florida. Where is the money?

Let's talk about the broader impact to the oceans. Did you know that Florida's coral reef tract is the third largest barrier reef in the world? It is a reef that starts south of Key West and goes all the way up the coast, almost all the way to Fort Pierce. The coral supports the spiny lobsters and the stone crabs, which are served in restaurants around the country. This industry is important to Florida's economy.

Hurricane Irma tossed all manner of debris around. Monroe County has already spent almost \$20 million to remove over 2 million cubic yards of waste—roofs, appliances, bicycles, trailer homes, and boats. The debris was also swept into the water, which is threatening the corals, and into the canals, where it blocks transportation.

I want you to take a look at this picture. This is one of the canals in the Keys. Look at what is sitting in the canal—a whole mobile home that was lifted up from the mobile home park on this side of the canal. There it is, in the water.

Take a look at this. Do you see what is in the canal? Do you see out here? That is the ocean. This canal is coming right in. What happens is that eventually some of the debris goes into the Atlantic. It gets near the reef. Some of it submerges. The wave action is sending it back and forth.

You can imagine any one of those pieces of debris knocking constantly into delicate coral that is already diseased, that is already overheated because the rising temperature of the water. You can imagine what is happening. Whether it is a mobile home sitting in the canal or whether it is all of this junk that is sitting in the canal and that eventually goes out, this is what we need help with.

It has been over a month since we passed the disaster supplemental appropriations bill. Why isn't the money flowing? That is what I called the Secretary of Commerce about this morning. I told him: Mr. Secretary, my request is very, very simple. Just get the money out. The money is appropriated. It is there.

I said: Mr. Secretary, will you please crack the whip on NOAA so that you can get this money out and we can get this place cleaned up, as well as protect those coral reefs from the damage they have already undergone?

Then I said: What happened in this storm is, whether for lobster or stone crab, the traps were all swept away. The poor fishermen don't have any traps. They need help too. That is what this disaster appropriations bill is for. Mr. Secretary, you have to crack the whip to get them going.

Unfortunately, this is not the only issue we are facing. Florida's citrus industry suffered over \$760 million in losses from the storm. Why? Because the trees were full of fruit that was going to be picked within just a few weeks. Along came the storm; the winds were severe. In Southwest Florida, some of the citrus crops were 100 percent lost. In fact, the winds were so high that they ended up uprooting citrus trees. Further north, in Central Florida, the groves there lost 50 to 60 percent of their crops.

The citrus industry cannot survive those kinds of losses, and that is why we have a disaster appropriations bill. There were losses of over \$760 million from the storm. The rest of Florida's agriculture took a big hit, too, with an estimated \$2.5 billion in total damages.

In February, we finally came through with \$3.8 billion for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Of that money, \$2.6 billion was supposed to go directly to farmers and ranchers. It is March, and those folks haven't seen a dime.

After I talked to the Secretary of Commerce, Wilbur Ross, I put in a call to the Secretary of Agriculture. I have called several times today. I have yet to connect with him. If any of his staff are listening, there is a bottleneck at the USDA that is preventing this money from going to the families who desperately need it. I will continue to call Secretary Perdue to ask him to do what I asked Secretary Wilbur Ross to do: Crack the whip on his organization to get the money flowing. That is why we passed supplemental emergency appropriations. Now the Federal agencies need to get the money out the door.

This is so frustrating because the administration knew that Congress was discussing a disaster supplemental bill when Hurricane Harvey hit Texas in August. Then Irma hit, and then Maria hit.

Six months later, most of the Federal agencies are just starting to dust off their pencils and figure out how they are going to allocate the funding. What is wrong with you? People are hurting. They are going bankrupt. You have to get that money out.

Can you imagine how you would feel if your family's entire citrus crop had been wiped out and you had been holding your breath waiting for disaster assistance funding, which finally came over a month ago, and then you were told by the folks at the USDA that you were going to have to wait for several more months until USDA figures out how to get you the money? It is no wonder that people are fed up with bureaucracy.

Additionally, many of our cities and counties have yet to see any reimbursements from FEMA for Hurricane Irma. In fact, many have yet to be fully reimbursed for Hurricane Matthew, which struck almost 2 years ago. Unbelievably, all those counties that were devastated had paid for the debris removal. The State of Florida missed the deadline—didn't turn it in on time.

Of course, what we had to do to cover the State of Florida's mistake was to plead with FEMA: Forget the mistake; it is the local counties and cities that need the money.

Not getting the money out is totally unacceptable. While we are still waiting for reimbursements from these storms, how can we expect these local governments to prepare for the 2018 hurricane season that will start in just a few months, right around the corner?

Let me say it again. This is unacceptable for the slow-walking—the foot-dragging—that is going on in getting the money out the door. I am going to keep pounding on this until the folks in Florida start getting the help they need and deserve.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, since I see no other Senator who seeks recognition, I thought I would take the occasion to bring the Senate up to date on what is happening down in Florida in the aftermath of 17 people being gunned down at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

As we know, we have seen those students speak out with a boldness and clarity that is rarely seen, and they are not being intimidated at all as to what needs to be done. As a matter of fact, in the aftermath of the shooting—and while some of the funerals have still been going on—since our Florida State Legislature is in session, over the course of 2 weeks, the students have gone to the capital city of Tallahassee and have held individual meetings with State legislators. They have held a rally outside of the capital and insisted that maybe—just maybe—this might be a time that the State legislature should confront this issue head-on: that, in fact, there was something to the fact that a weapon that was originally developed for the military, an AR-15—the semiautomatic version of a military weapon—could do such damage and quickly go about killing so many people. It was 17 in the case of the high school.

Just 2 years earlier, it was 49 people in Orlando at the Pulse nightclub. In between, we saw several mass killings with high-powered, military-style assault rifles in Texas, as well as 59 people being gunned down in Las Vegas.

Last week, I talked about the assault weapon, and I have since had, over the weekend, constituents in Florida ask me to come back and speak on the floor of the Senate about the difference in the damage—the mayhem, the carnage, the slaughter—that occurs as a result of an assault rifle as compared to a handgun. You don't have to take it from this Senator. You can talk to the trauma surgeons. You can talk to the radiologist in the trauma center. As a matter of fact, several articles in the past week have been written in various publications in Florida and in the national press, along with there being

photographs to show the difference. Let me paraphrase the words of one of the trauma surgeons in Broward County who attended to some of the victims.

He cited that on any normal night, particularly on a weekend, they have to treat gunshots. If that gunshot is from a handgun—say, a .22 pistol or, say, a .9 millimeter pistol—the bullet will enter the victim, and unless that bullet goes to a critical organ, such as the heart or, for example, to the blood supply going into the liver, that bullet will continue through. If it comes out the other side, it will come out with a hole that is the same size as when it penetrated the body in the first place. It is not so with a bullet from an assault rifle because those weapons, which are developed for the military, are clearly for killing.

The bullet, first of all, comes out at three times the speed—three times the velocity. Therefore, when it hits its target, it hits with three times the energy. Often, the bullet is designed so that when it hits the target, it will tumble and just tear through and destroy any flesh in its path, including bone and organs.

The trauma center's radiologist explains that if a handgun's bullet, such as a .9 millimeter, goes through the liver, they can usually save the patient's life. They point out that of almost all handgun wounds, they can save the life unless the bullet hits a major artery or organ, like the heart, or a major blood supply. It is not so with the bullet from an assault weapon. The bullet enters at three times the velocity, with three times the energy. It starts tumbling, ripping away flesh. If it goes, for example, to a kidney or to the liver, it pulverizes that organ and comes out the other side of the victim with a hole as large as an orange.

That is the difference between a handgun wound and a wound from a high-velocity assault rifle, whether it is a semiautomatic or whether it is an automatic. It was made automatic, with what we saw in Las Vegas, with the bump stocks. He made a semiautomatic, which was legal to purchase, into an automatic rifle. It is because of that carnage that one has to ask oneself: Would any American citizen want to have those kinds of assault rifles loose on the streets for people who want to use them for dastardly purposes? I think the answer is no.

This Senator grew up on a ranch. I have hunted all of my life. I still hunt with my son, but an AR-15 is not for hunting; it is for killing. It is an understanding of the difference of these weapons that is causing the American people to gradually understand that these kinds of weapons have no place on the streets of America.

One can imagine the SWAT team. Had they been there while the shooter had still been inside and had they entered that school and tried to find the killer and known that what they were going to come up against was an AR-15

instead of a handgun, that would have been a terrible thing. One can imagine, if there had happened to be an armed guard with a pistol and he had gone after the shooter but the shooter had had an AR-15, that would not have been a fair firefight. With a pistol against an AR-15, one can imagine who is going to win that fight.

These are the questions that the American people need to have answered as we go through these discussions about what to do. Thus, when these students all gather in Washington and in 100 cities around this country on March 24—a Saturday—and start marching in untold numbers, they are going to be asking: Isn't enough enough? Haven't we come to the point at which we ought to reexamine that the Second Amendment protects the right to bear arms but if these are the arms we want borne on our streets?

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORAN). The Senator from Georgia.

NOMINATION OF TILMAN SELF

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I rise out of a great sense of pride to exercise one of my responsibilities in the U.S. Senate to speak on behalf of Tripp Self, a judge from the Georgia courts, who has been nominated to become a judge for the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia. The vote will take place not too long from now, and I encourage every Senator to cast his vote for Judge Self. He is the whole package.

He has a wonderful wife and family and four great children. He worked in the private sector for years and accomplished many things in the private sector. He went to the University of Georgia School of Law and graduated cum laude and summa cum laude from The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina, and went on to have a distinguished private career. He then served as a superior court judge on the Macon Judicial Circuit for the State of Georgia. In that job with the superior court, he did something that I am very close to. He is an entrepreneur because he started the Veterans Treatment Court for the Middle District of Georgia and for that judicial circuit.

The Veterans Treatment Court, as all of you know, is a court that is formed to help veterans who stray from the law or who have difficulties when they come home either because of PTSD or TBI. It helps them with the struggles of battle that they have had and with whatever problems they may have had from representing us on the battlefield. They trip and they fall, and they need somebody to help get them up. We want to make them do the right thing but also help them get themselves brushed off, look forward to careers, and help them get that step forward. We do that with teenagers with what are called CASAs, Court Appointed Special Advocates. We turn people around who otherwise might go to jail—young kids. The Veterans Treatment Court takes those who have

risked paying the ultimate sacrifice—that of their lives for you and for me and for everybody else—who might have fallen off just a little bit. When we get them back into the judicial system, we get them straightened out, and we move them forward so they have better lives and rewarding careers of their own—thanking them for all of the things they have done for us as veterans.

As the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee of the U.S. Senate and as one who recognizes the value of the court system for all of the things it does to administer justice, I am particularly proud to have a judge who has used his entrepreneurial skills to deal with a problem our society has in the legal sense and in the court sense and to see to it that our veterans are getting the help they need and that our communities are getting the representation they need.

I am also a football fan. I know calling football games is tough, just as making judicial decisions is tough. Tripp Self officiates NCAA football in the Southern Conference. Two years ago, he was selected to do the 2017 FCS national championship game, which is a testament to his ability to call balls and strikes on the field.

He is a pretty good shot too. He is a turkey hunter and likes to turkey hunt and likes the outdoors.

Most importantly, he loves the United States of America. He respects and loves the law for what it does. We are a nation of laws and not of men. He does everything in his capacity as an individual and as one on the bench to see to it that our country is a better country and our State is a better State—the State I represent, Georgia.

When each Senator turns to vote in a few minutes on the confirmations of the three judges that will come before us today, when it comes to Judge Tripp Self, of Georgia, may each cast a vote proudly for someone who is a legal entrepreneur for veterans, one who has served with distinction in the State as a private sector practicing attorney and on the bench already, and one who will serve the United States of America very well in the years to come.

I commend him and his family for being willing to take on this responsibility, and I thank the President of the United States for the wisdom to make this appointment.

I yield the floor.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Scholer nomination?

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and

the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SUL-LIVAN).

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) is necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 95, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 46 Ex.]

YEAS—95

Alexander	Flake	Nelson
Baldwin	Gardner	Paul
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Perdue
Bennet	Graham	Peters
Blumenthal	Grassley	Portman
Blunt	Harris	Reed
Booker	Hassan	Risch
Boozman	Hatch	Roberts
Brown	Heinrich	Rounds
Burr	Heller	Rubio
Cantwell	Hirono	Sanders
Capito	Hoeven	Sasse
Cardin	Inhofe	Schatz
Carper	Isakson	Schumer
Casey	Johnson	Scott
Cassidy	Jones	Shaheen
Cochran	Kaine	Shelby
Collins	Kennedy	Smith
Coons	King	Stabenow
Corker	Klobuchar	Tester
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cortez Masto	Leahy	Tillis
Cotton	Lee	Toomey
Crapo	Manchin	Udall
Daines	Markey	Van Hollen
Donnelly	McCaskill	Warner
Duckworth	McConnell	Warren
Durbin	Menendez	Whitehouse
Enzi	Merkley	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Wyden
Feinstein	Murphy	Young
Fischer	Murray	

NOT VOTING—5

Cruz	McCain	Sullivan
Heitkamp	Murkowski	

The nomination was confirmed.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the pending nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Tilman Eugene Self III, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Self nomination?

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and

the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SUL-LIVAN).

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

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

The result was announced—yeas 85, nays 11, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 47 Ex.]

YEAS—85

Alexander	Fischer	Nelson
Baldwin	Flake	Paul
Barrasso	Gardner	Perdue
Bennet	Graham	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Reed
Boozman	Hassan	Risch
Brown	Hatch	Roberts
Burr	Heinrich	Rounds
Cantwell	Heitkamp	Rubio
Capito	Heller	Sasse
Cardin	Hirono	Schatz
Carper	Hoeven	Schumer
Casey	Inhofe	Scott
Cassidy	Isakson	Shaheen
Cochran	Johnson	Shelby
Collins	Jones	Smith
Coons	Kaine	Tester
Corker	Kennedy	Thune
Cornyn	King	Tillis
Cortez Masto	Klobuchar	Toomey
Cotton	Lankford	Udall
Crapo	Leahy	Van Hollen
Daines	Lee	Warner
Donnelly	Manchin	Whitehouse
Duckworth	McCaskill	Wicker
Durbin	McConnell	Wyden
Enzi	Moran	Young
Ernst	Murphy	
Feinstein	Murray	

NAYS—11

Blumenthal	Markey	Sanders
Booker	Menendez	Stabenow
Gillibrand	Merkley	Warren
Harris	Peters	

NOT VOTING—4

Cruz	Murkowski
McCain	Sullivan

The nomination was confirmed.

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

The Senator from Tennessee.

RETIREMENT OF THAD COCHRAN

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, late this afternoon, Senator THAD COCHRAN, the senior Senator from Mississippi, announced he will be retiring from the Senate on April 1. He said his health had become an ongoing concern.

I saw a steady stream of Senators visiting with Senator COCHRAN today expressing their best wishes to him and for good reason: Senator COCHRAN is a gentleman, first of all; he is a skilled legislator, second of all. He has earned the respect of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle through his chairmanship of the Senate Appropriations Committee, the one-time chairman of the Senate Republican conference, and back in Mississippi, he was a pioneer in the development of that State's two-party system in the Republican Party.

He and Trent Lott were both elected to Congress in 1972, in the Nixon sweep. Then, THAD COCHRAN became the first

statewide-elected Republican in Mississippi since Reconstruction, in 1978, when he was elected to the U.S. Senate. He has been here ever since.

He is a close friend. I admire him greatly. We will miss him greatly, but I especially admire his service and wanted to say that before I made other remarks.

TARIFFS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, 16 years ago President George W. Bush announced that tariffs would be imposed on steel imports from several countries. The goal was to help protect the domestic steel industry. It was a good goal by a well-intentioned President whom I supported, but it backfired.

Last week President Trump announced that he intends to impose new tariffs on imports of steel and aluminum for the same reasons. It is a good goal by a well-intentioned President, but I am afraid it will backfire, just as it did for President Bush 16 years ago.

Here is the problem: Tariffs are big taxes, and they are big taxes that raise consumer prices. These new tariffs may temporarily save a few jobs in plants that produce steel and aluminum, but they will destroy many more jobs in auto plants that use steel and aluminum.

This is especially bad news for Tennesseans because one-third of our State's manufacturing jobs are auto jobs, with more than 900 plants in 87 of our 95 counties. Anything that threatens to destroy or damage auto jobs is of grave concern to Tennesseans. It will now be cheaper for some Tennessee auto parts suppliers to move outside the United States, buy steel and aluminum there, and then ship finished parts back to this country.

These new tariffs will hurt more than U.S. auto manufacturers. The President indicated this morning that a final decision hasn't been made. I hope that before he makes a final decision, he will take into consideration the choices that companies such as Electrolux are making, which demonstrate that broad tariffs are bad for American workers and will cost Americans jobs, not just auto jobs.

Here is one example of the damage the proposed steel tariff would do in Tennessee to a home appliance manufacturer that uses 100 percent American steel. Immediately after the tariff was announced last week, Electrolux—Europe's largest home appliance manufacturer—announced that it was putting on hold a \$250 million expansion in Springfield, TN, just outside of Nashville. Electrolux has made multiple investments in Tennessee, with plants in Memphis, as well as Springfield. Electrolux employs more than 1,000 Tennesseans.

The company said: "Unfortunately, this decision gives foreign appliance manufacturers a cost advantage that is

hard to compete against.” Note that Electrolux says that it gives foreign manufacturers an advantage. Electrolux buys all of the carbon steel it uses in its Tennessee plants from American steel mills. Let me say that again. Electrolux, which employees 1,000 people in Tennessee making home appliances, buys all of the carbon steel it uses in Tennessee plants from American steel mills. Yet it has put its expansion on hold because it believes the tariff will make it difficult for Tennessee plants to compete with plants overseas. Why? Because the new tariff is expected to cause American steel mills to raise their prices to match the newer, higher price of imported steel. The result of the tariff, therefore, will be higher costs for Electrolux and fewer jobs in Springfield, TN, making home appliances with 100 percent American steel. Instead, there will be more jobs overseas making home appliances with 100 percent foreign steel.

The new U.S. tariffs on imported steel will raise the price of all steel sold in our country, so appliance manufacturers with plants in the United States will have a hard time competing with plants outside of our country.

We should learn the lesson from 2002 when President Bush imposed similar tariffs—again, a good goal, a well-intentioned President, but it backfired. According to one widely cited independent study, the tariffs raised consumer prices and “[m]ore American workers lost their jobs in 2002 to higher steel prices than the total number employed by the U.S. steel industry itself.” President Bush’s tariffs also led to retaliation, as other countries threatened to impose new tariffs on American exports, which would have cost even more U.S. jobs.

On Friday, the Wall Street Journal editorial board reminded readers: “Steel using industries in the U.S. employ some 6.5 million Americans, while steel makers employ about 140,000. Transportation industries, including aircraft and autos, account for about 40% of domestic steel consumption, followed by packaging with 20% and building construction with 15%. All will have to pay higher prices, making them less competitive globally and in the U.S.”

That was the Wall Street Journal.

The backlash to the 2002 tariffs was so strong that President Bush terminated them early.

I want to give President Trump credit for listening. He invited a number of us who disagree with his advisers on trade to the White House. He has listened carefully. So far, we haven’t persuaded him. I hope we still can. I thank him for listening. I hope he will continue to listen.

It is unusual to have a lesson in American history so much like the action he is proposing to take that was not good for the country no matter how well-intentioned the President was or how good an idea it seemed.

Since history can often serve as a guide, I refer my colleagues to two ad-

resses I delivered on the U.S. Senate floor on September 2, 2003, and November 11, 2003, summarizing the disastrous effect President Bush’s proposed steel tariffs had on U.S. jobs.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a copy of the Wall Street Journal’s March 2 editorial on tariffs.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Wall Street Journal, Updated March 1, 2018]

TRUMP’S TARIFF FOLLY
(By the Editorial Board)

Donald Trump made the biggest policy blunder of his Presidency Thursday by announcing that next week he’ll impose tariffs of 25% on imported steel and 10% on aluminum. This tax increase will punish American workers, invite retaliation that will harm U.S. exports, divide his political coalition at home, anger allies abroad, and undermine his tax and regulatory reforms. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 1.7% on the news, as investors absorbed the self-inflicted folly.

Mr. Trump has spent a year trying to lift the economy from its Obama doldrums, with considerable success. Annual GDP growth has averaged 3% in the past nine months if you adjust for temporary factors, and on Tuesday the ISM manufacturing index for February came in at a gaudy 60.8. American factories are humming, and consumer and business confidence are soaring.

Apparently Mr. Trump can’t stand all this winning. His tariffs will benefit a handful of companies, at least for a while, but they will harm many more. “We have with us the biggest steel companies in the United States. They used to be a lot bigger, but they’re going to be a lot bigger again,” Mr. Trump declared in a meeting Thursday at the White House with steel and aluminum executives.

No, they won’t. The immediate impact will be to make the U.S. an island of high-priced steel and aluminum. The U.S. companies will raise their prices to nearly match the tariffs while snatching some market share. The additional profits will flow to executives in higher bonuses and shareholders, at least until the higher prices hurt their steel- and aluminum-using customers. Then U.S. steel and aluminum makers will be hurt as well.

Mr. Trump seems not to understand that steel-using industries in the U.S. employ some 6.5 million Americans, while steel makers employ about 140,000. Transportation industries, including aircraft and autos, account for about 40% of domestic steel consumption, followed by packaging with 20% and building construction with 15%. All will have to pay higher prices, making them less competitive globally and in the U.S.

Instead of importing steel to make goods in America, many companies will simply import the finished product made from cheaper steel or aluminum abroad. Mr. Trump fancies himself the savior of the U.S. auto industry, but he might note that Ford Motor shares fell 3% Thursday and GM’s fell 4%. U.S. Steel gained 5.8%. Mr. Trump has handed a giant gift to foreign car makers, which will now have a cost advantage over Detroit. How do you think that will play in Michigan in 2020? The National Retail Federation called the tariffs a “tax on American families,” who will pay higher prices for canned goods and even beer in aluminum cans. Another name for this is the Trump voter tax.

The economic damage will quickly compound because other countries can and will retaliate against U.S. exports. Not steel, but

against farm goods, Harley-Davidson motorcycles, Cummins engines, John Deere tractors, and much more. Foreign countries are canny enough to know how to impose maximum political pain on Republican Senators and Congressmen in an election year by targeting exports from their states and districts. Has anyone at the White House political shop thought this through?

Then there’s the diplomatic damage, made worse by Mr. Trump’s use of Section 232 to claim a threat to national security. In the process Mr. Trump is declaring a unilateral exception to U.S. trade agreements that other countries won’t forget and will surely emulate.

The national security threat from foreign steel is preposterous because China supplies only 2.2% of U.S. imports and Russia 8.7%. But the tariffs will whack that menace to world peace known as Canada, which supplies 16%. South Korea, which Mr. Trump needs for his strategy against North Korea, supplies 10%, Brazil 13% and Mexico 9%.

Oh, and Canada buys more American steel than any other country, accounting for 50% of U.S. steel exports. Mr. Trump is punishing our most important trading partner in the middle of a NAFTA renegotiation that he claims will result in a much better deal. Instead he is taking a machete to America’s trade credibility. Why should Canada believe a word he says?

Mr. Trump announced his intentions Thursday, so there’s still time to reconsider. GOP Senators Orrin Hatch (Utah) and Ben Sasse (Nebraska) spoke up loudly against the tariffs, but a larger business and labor chorus is required. Mr. Trump is a bona fide protectionist so he won’t be dissuaded by arguments about comparative advantage. But perhaps he will heed the message from the falling stock market, and from the harm he will do to the economy, his voters, and his Presidency.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

SYRIAN CIVIL WAR

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise today as Syria is about to enter its eighth year of conflict. We have witnessed 7 years of displacement and violence, 7 years of war crimes, and 7 years of Bashar al-Assad’s illegitimate grasp on power. To say that it is past time for Assad to go or that it is past time for the conflict to be resolved dramatically underestimates the horrible suffering and destruction the people of Syria have experienced. In these 7 years, almost 500,000 Syrians have been killed and more than 12 million have been displaced from their homes.

This conflict has disproportionately affected children, as all conflicts do. According to Save the Children, inside Syria, 7.5 million children have lived their whole lives knowing nothing but war. Emotional and psychological stress has manifested itself physically; Syrian children now face an increase in heart disease, diabetes, and depression. These children are growing up in refugee camps, with no end in sight. This means the loss of their childhood and

of educational opportunities. I don't exaggerate when I say that because of this war, an entire generation of Syrians will be both displaced and disaffected in an already volatile region. Ignoring these children ensures decades of instability to come.

In Eastern Ghouta this past week, we saw the most recent example of the brutality of the Assad regime, aided and abetted by Russia and Iran. While only just now making headlines, Eastern Ghouta has been held under siege by the Syrian Government since 2013. This neighborhood, which had supposedly been designated as a deescalation zone, has been bombarded by Syrian Government forces armed with Russian weapons. In just a few days, 500 civilians have been killed, and that number is growing.

Years after the international community reached a consensus that Assad had lost his legitimacy as the leader of Syria, he not only remains in power but is more secure than ever. The United States has not only failed to exert moral leadership in the face of Syrian suffering but has also failed to show strategic leadership in the face of a tangible threat to U.S. national security.

I have long called on both the Obama and Trump administrations, warning that U.S. interests were not being represented in Syrian negotiations, but this has never been more clearly illustrated than in November of this past year, November of 2017, when a picture circulated of Presidents Ruhani, Putin, and Erdogan shaking hands in Russia after a round of negotiations to determine a potential resolution of the Syrian conflict.

I have to ask, is it now U.S. policy to let these three dictate policy in the Middle East—Ruhani, Putin, and Erdogan? The United States was not there, nor were our European allies. The United States is failing our own interests by ceding leadership in Syria to Iran and Russia, whose national security interests often directly contradict our own.

What do these bullying regimes want from Syria?

Let's start with Iran. Iran sees Syria as an investment in its political infrastructure and its campaign for regional hegemony. It is their "land bridge" from Tehran to Beirut, a weapons pipeline, a training camp for Hezbollah. It is a practice ground for a future war with Israel.

What about the Russians? The Russian Government, led by Mr. Putin, has made clear that they believe all Syrian territory must return to the Assad regime and to the Assad regime's control before political reforms can be considered. Putin seeks a solution that shows that he is the arbiter of events in the Middle East. Lately, foreign leaders—including Prime Minister Netanyahu of Israel, President Ruhani, and King Salman of Saudi Arabia—fly to Moscow instead of Washington. They see a Russia that seeks to write the rules of

international order and an America that sits back, too enmeshed in our own political strife to lead.

This is not the America that I know and that most Americans know. The America I know does not believe that where you are born should dictate where you live or die or if you spend your childhood in a refugee camp. The America I know does not stand by while enemy nations threaten to expand their spheres of influence. The America I know sees the complexity of our own foreign involvements, understanding, for instance, that ISIS cannot be fully defeated without considering the context of the Syrian civil war. The America I know supports its allies, like Israel, that share a chaotic border with a nation at war with itself.

In 1963, President John F. Kennedy spoke at the Fort Worth, TX, Chamber of Commerce on the challenges posed by the Soviet regime.

He said:

This country, which desires only to be free, which desires to be secure, which desired to live at peace for 18 years under three different administrations, has borne more than its share of the burden, has stood watch for more than its number of years. I don't think we are fatigued or tired. We would like to live as we once lived. But history will not permit it. . . . The balance of power is still on the side of freedom. We are still the keystone in the arch of freedom, and I think we will continue to do as we have done in our past, our duty.

So said President Kennedy. He spoke to the paradox of our country then and now, what we continue to face. If we are to remain the keystone in the arch of freedom, we cannot become fatigued by the responsibility to fight tyranny.

These are the very issues that should receive public debate as part of the congressional consideration of a new authorization for the use of military force, known by the acronym AUMF. We undermine our own credibility when we continue to send our men and women into conflicts that Congress has not authorized. Secretary Tillerson, our Secretary of State, has indicated that he sees a need for a long-term U.S. military presence in Syria; yet many of us believe that there is no purely military solution to this conflict. Where is the strategy? we ask. I would like to see the administration put forward a plan that encompasses all components of this conflict—military, political, and humanitarian.

When we ask our men and women in uniform to put their lives on the line to protect our homeland and fight terrorism, we need to be willing to back them up by doing our jobs here in Washington. Just consider Pennsylvania. Pennsylvanians have made a substantial sacrifice in the past 17 years of war as 288 of our brave servicemembers have been killed in action in those 17 years and as almost 2,000 have been wounded in action in Afghanistan and Iraq.

We owe it to these men and women to have a robust, bipartisan debate about this strategy and a vote on an AUMF.

We should also vote on legislation to cut off financing for ISIS or any other terrorist organization in the world. I have a bipartisan bill, the Stop Terrorists Operational Resources and Money Act, the so-called STORM Act, with Senator ISAKSON. I have a bill, as well, with Senator RUBIO, the Preventing Destabilization of Iraq and Syria Act, to promote humanitarian aid and sanction the Russian and Iranian actors who are destabilizing this region—all of the components of a comprehensive strategy.

Let's have a serious debate on this critical national security issue. We are not always faced with situations in which our moral obligation and our strategic priorities lead to the same conclusion, but this is one of those rare moments.

May it be said of us years from now, just as President Kennedy said, that we do our duty to continue to be the keystone in the arch of freedom, including helping the Syrian people, especially her children, be free of Assad's brutality and bombing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination, Executive Calendar No. 397.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jeffrey Gerrish, of Maryland, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and Industrial Competitiveness), with the rank of Ambassador.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Gerrish nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session for 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.

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY'S FOUNDERS DAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it is my privilege to highlight the 50th anniversary of the founding of Northern Kentucky University, NKU. I am proud to join with NKU's more than 14,000 students, its faculty and staff, and its supporters in marking the history of the institution.

As northern Kentucky was previously the only region in the State without a traditional public university, many students lacked the opportunity to attend a local 4-year institution of higher education that students in other regions of Kentucky enjoyed. In response, a bipartisan group of State legislators from the region worked with Kentucky Governor Louie B. Nunn to establish a new school in 1968. Originally named Northern Kentucky State College, the school proved to be an attractive option for local students from the region. Less than a decade later, as the campus continued to expand its programs and services to accommodate a growing student population, the school became a university, changing its name to Northern Kentucky University, NKU. Since that time, NKU has continued to thrive, adding more undergraduate, graduate, and even doctoral programs, which have attracted a broader base of students to the university. These advancements, coupled with the region's population growth and economic development, have been an immense benefit to Northern Kentucky.

NKU has also expanded athletic opportunities for its students and has built a number of strong teams. Having dominated NCAA Division II play with two women's basketball national championships and one men's soccer national championship, the Norse recently transitioned into NCAA Division I. With this new reclassification, the Norse teams have continued to excel. Winning the Horizon League tournament last year, the men's basketball team earned their first trip to the NCAA Division I tournament. This year, the team's hard work earned their title as the Horizon League's regular season champions. In addition, the Norse have many other impressive teams and dedicated fans.

On its golden anniversary, NKU has so much to be proud of. Under the leadership of Interim President Gerard St. Amand, the school continues to grow in both size and prominence. It has matured into a comprehensive university that delivers innovative, student-centered education and engages in impactful scholarly and creative endeavors, all of which empower its graduates to have fulfilling careers and meaningful lives.

With successful alumni who have entered a wide range of careers, from government leaders to entrepreneurs, to

artists, and to coaches, NKU has helped more than 60,000 students achieve their dreams. For a half century, NKU has had a tremendous impact on the economic, civic, and social vitality of the region, and all Kentuckians are benefiting from having such an outstanding higher education institution in our Commonwealth. I would like to congratulate the entire Northern Kentucky University community on reaching this Founders Day milestone, and I urge my Senate colleagues to join me in recognizing its accomplishments.

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, DC.

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. 17-79, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Japan for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$45 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,

GREGORY M. KAUSNER,
(For Charles W. Hooper, Lieutenant
General, USA, Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 17-79

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Japan.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$40 million.
Other \$5 million.
Total \$45 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
Twenty-four (24) MK 15 Phalanx Close-in Weapon System (CIWS) Block IB Baseline 1 to MK 15 Phalanx Block IB Baseline 2 Conversion Kits.

Non-MDE: Also included is support equipment, spare parts, publications, software and associated support, and logistical support services, and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (JA-P-NBE).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: March 2, 2018.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Japan—MK 15 Phalanx Close-in Weapon System (CIWS) Block IB Baseline 2 Conversion Kits

The Government of Japan has requested to buy twenty-four (24) MK 15 Phalanx Close-in Weapon System (CIWS) Block IB Baseline 1 to MK 15 Phalanx Block IB Baseline 2 conversion kits. Also included is support equipment, spare parts, publications, software and associated support, and logistical support services, and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total case value is \$45 million.

This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by improving the security of a major ally that has been, and continues to be, a force for political stability and economic progress in the Asia-Pacific region.

The proposed sale will improve Japan's capability in current and future defensive efforts. Japan will use the enhanced capability as a deterrent to regional threats and to strengthen homeland defense.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Raytheon Missile Systems, Tucson, AZ. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the permanent assignment of additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives in Japan.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 17-79

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The CIWS Block IB Baseline 2 represents an increase in threat acquisition and firepower accuracy over previous Block 1 Baseline configurations. The Baseline 2 variant includes a radar improvement upgrade and an electro-optical sensor to improve weapon system performance against low-observable, sea-skimming threats, and provides improved capability to concentrate hard-kill ordnance in a tighter pattern on the threat. The CIWS mount and spare hardware are UNCLASSIFIED. The radar improvement/upgrade is the most sensitive portion of the Baseline 2 configuration.

2. The CIWS Block IB Baseline 2 systems and upgrade kits will result in the transfer of a highly accurate close-in engagement technology and ship self-defense capability. The equipment, hardware, and the majority of documentation are UNCLASSIFIED. The embedded software and operational performance are classified CONFIDENTIAL. The seeker/electro-optical control section and the target detector are UNCLASSIFIED, but

contain a sensitive state-of-the-art technology. Technical Manuals used to support the operation and provisioning of organizational-level maintenance are CONFIDENTIAL. The technical and operational data identified above is classified to protect vulnerabilities, design and performance parameters, and similar critical information.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of specific hardware, the information could be used to develop countermeasures which might reduce weapons system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Japan can provide substantially the same degree of protection for sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This proposed sustainment program is necessary to the furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the policy justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of Japan.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CAITLIN "KATIE" BRAND AND RECOGNIZING UCWIP

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme, UCWIP. Our Nation has benefited from the service of outstanding Australian college students who participate in internships throughout the U.S. Congress through this program.

The program provides students with the opportunity to obtain considerable experience through their congressional internships, while also making available other educational experiences throughout their time in the U.S. Uni-Capitol Washington Programme interns have helped me serve Idaho constituents, and I am grateful for their efforts and dedication.

Caitlin "Katie" Brand, a UCWIP participant, joined my staff as an intern this semester. Katie is studying a double bachelor of commerce, accounting, and law with a diploma of languages, Mandarin, at Monash University. Upon completion of her degree, Katie intends to pursue a career in either the international relations, finance, or banking fields. Katie has been a pleasure to have on my staff and quickly adapted to her role and responsibilities in the office. Her eager and intelligent demeanor have allowed Katie to put forth her best work in helping to advance crucial work for Idahoans. I commend the level of professionalism Katie exhibits in every office interaction. She has shared with us some of the political and cultural differences between the U.S. and Australia, and it has been a great learning experience for both Katie and the staff.

"Being part of the UCWIP program and working in Senator Mike Crapo's office was an invaluable experience," Katie has said about her experiences in Washington. "The opportunity has afforded me unparalleled insight into the world's foremost legislative body and

enriched my professional development, including opportunities beyond what I imagined, such as attending the State of the Union as the Senator's guest. I want to wholeheartedly thank Senator Crapo and the staff in Senator Crapo's office who have made my internship so enjoyable and educational."

Eric Federer, UCWIP's director and founder, has successfully focused his Capitol Hill and Australia experiences to provide this valuable educational exchange opportunity that benefits Australian students and congressional offices. His dedication to advancing this learning experience is remarkable.

I have been honored to have worked with the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme for several years. The program is shaping young leaders who are helping to deepen understanding between our two nations while providing outstanding constituent support. I commend Katie Brand, Eric Federer, and the other Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme participants and interns for their achievements and wish them continued success.●

TRIBUTE TO IRMA CLOUGH

• Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize the very special occasion of the 100th birthday of Mrs. Irma Clough, which occurred on February 18, 2018. Born in 1918, Irma has lived in Bath, NH, for the majority of her life.

Irma's friends describe her as an independent spirit with a great sense of humor. She loves wildlife, playing cards and dominos, and keeping up with basketball games. As a young woman, she cleaned people's houses to help support her family. While working as a cook at the Village Bath School, Irma was well known for her baking skills.

Irma is a dedicated member of the Bath Congregational Church where she has sung in the choir and served as the church treasurer. Twenty-three years ago, Irma started the annual Fall Foliage Festival in her town. She has also been a member of Pine Grove Grange for over 85 years and continues to serve as their treasurer.

Irma and her husband, Edwin Clough, who passed away in 1993, were married for 45 years. Together they raised three children, and now, Irma has 8 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

I hope everyone joins me in wishing an accomplished and well-loved Granite Stater, Irma Clough, a very happy 100th birthday.●

TRIBUTE TO KATERI CALLAHAN

• Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I want to recognize the leadership of Kateri Callahan, who has served as president of the Alliance to Save Energy since 2004. As the honorary chair of the alliance, I have been a firsthand witness to many of Kateri's most recent accomplishments. Before Kateri

starts the next chapter of her career, I want take this opportunity to look back upon her 14 years with the alliance and thank her for her contributions to Federal energy-efficiency policy.

In 1977, Senators Charles Percy and Hubert Humphrey—a Republican from Illinois and a Democrat from Minnesota—founded the alliance as the leading energy-efficiency coalition of businesses, governments, environmental groups, and consumer advocates. The goal of the Alliance from the start has been simple: "Use less and do more." In the wake of the oil embargoes and energy shortages of the 1970s, that message resonated loud and clear, and it still does.

Energy efficiency saves money, improves national security, reduces pollution, encourages innovation, boosts U.S. competitiveness, and creates jobs. Without the economywide improvements in energy efficiency made since 1973, it is estimated that today's economy would require 60 percent more energy than we consume now. In fact, savings from energy-efficiency improvements over the last 40 years have reduced our national energy bill by an estimated \$800 billion, all while growing and expanding our economy.

Since its establishment, the alliance has taken great care to cultivate and maintain bipartisan support for policies supporting energy efficiency. While doing so, the organization has been led by a distinguished groups of energy efficiency thought-leaders and advocates like Kateri.

For my colleagues who have not met Kateri, you need to know she is persistent and tenacious. Once she gets ahold of something, believe me she never lets go and sees it through to the end. I am thankful for Kateri's leadership, and on behalf of my House and Senate colleagues who are also part of the alliance, I am thankful for the coalition's support for my proposals over the years.

Highlights abound during Kateri's tenure at the alliance. She was a key negotiator on many of the most impactful energy-efficiency provisions of the 2005 and 2007 energy bills that passed Congress with strong bipartisan support and were signed into law by President George W. Bush. She helped ensure that the 2009 stimulus package provided significant investments in energy efficiency and encouraged states to adopt updated building energy codes. In 2015, she stood with me and my colleagues, Senator ROB PORTMAN and Representatives DAVID MCKINLEY and PETER WELCH, as President Barack Obama signed our bipartisan and bicameral bill, the Energy Efficiency Improvement Act, which was the first significant energy-efficiency legislation to pass Congress in nearly a decade.

In addition to her work in Washington, Kateri has spurred initiatives to connect directly with energy consumers and educate the public about

the economic and environmental opportunities of energy efficiency. She produced a series of award-winning consumer education campaigns, including the Power is in Your Hands, Energy Hog, DriveSmarter, LUMEN, and Six Degrees of Energy Efficiency. She also led the establishment of the Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance to ensure that American families and businesses in the southeastern States have the knowledge, resources, and opportunities to optimize energy use.

The alliance's reach does not stop at our borders. Under the leadership of Kateri, the alliance created the European Alliance to Save Energy and established EE Global, the world's premier gathering of energy-efficiency leaders to discuss new ideas and chart new paths to do more by using less.

Serving 14 years as president of an organization like the alliance is its own commendable accomplishment, but Kateri has had a more profound and positive impact on Federal energy-efficiency policy than can be counted just in years. I congratulate Kateri and express sincere thanks for her support over the years. I wish her the best in her future pursuits and good health and good luck.

Thank you.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:04 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to section 30422(b)(3) of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-123), and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Speaker and Majority Leader of the Senate jointly appoints the following Senator to the Joint Select Committee on Solvency of Multiemployer Pension Plans as co-chair: Mr. HATCH of Utah.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 30442(b)(3) of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-123), and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Speaker and Majority Leader of the Senate jointly appoints the following Member to the Joint Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations Process Reform as co-chair: Mr. WOMACK of Arkansas.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 30442(b)(3) of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-123) the Minority Leader of the House and Minority Leader of the Senate jointly appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the Joint Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations Process Reform as co-chair: Mrs. NITA LOWEY of New York.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 703 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 903), and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Speaker re-appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Social Security Advisory Board for a term of 6 years:

Ms. Nancy Altman of Bethesda, Maryland.

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. SCOTT (for himself and Mr. JONES):

S. 2490. A bill to amend the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 to modify requirements related to mortgage disclosures; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 2491. A bill to permit voluntary economic activity; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. NELSON, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Ms. COLLINS, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2492. A bill to provide for the reporting to State and local law enforcement authorities of cases in which the national instant criminal background check system indicates that a firearm has been sought to be acquired by a prohibited person, so that authorities may pursue criminal charges under State law, and to ensure that the Department of Justice reports to Congress on prosecutions secured against prohibited persons who attempt to acquire a firearm; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MANCHIN:

S. 2493. A bill to clarify the congressional intent behind the requirements relating to immediate suspension orders and corrective action plans under the Controlled Substances Act that were added by the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2016; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BALDWIN (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. Kaine, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2494. A bill to provide standards for short-term limited duration health insurance policies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. UDALL, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. JONES, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. SMITH, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 2495. A bill to reauthorize the grant program for school security in the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ENZI:

S. 2496. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish Small Business Health Accounts; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 2497. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Arms Export Control Act to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriations of funds

to Israel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCOTT (for himself, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 2498. A bill to reduce identity fraud; to the Committee on Finance.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 183

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 183, a bill to allow for expedited approval of generic prescription drugs and temporary importation of prescription drugs in the case of non-competitive drug markets and drug shortages.

S. 224

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 224, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions.

S. 266

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 266, a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Anwar Sadat in recognition of his heroic achievements and courageous contributions to peace in the Middle East.

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 266, *supra*.

S. 292

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 292, a bill to maximize discovery, and accelerate development and availability, of promising childhood cancer treatments, and for other purposes.

S. 363

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 363, a bill to revise the authorized route of the North Country National Scenic Trail in northeastern Minnesota and to extend the trail into Vermont to connect with the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and for other purposes.

S. 445

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCHE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 445, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 591

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 591, a bill to expand eligibility for the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers of

the Department of Veterans Affairs, to expand benefits available to participants under such program, to enhance special compensation for members of the uniformed services who require assistance in everyday life, and for other purposes.

S. 720

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 720, a bill to amend the Export Administration Act of 1979 to include in the prohibitions on boycotts against allies of the United States boycotts fostered by international governmental organizations against Israel and to direct the Export-Import Bank of the United States to oppose boycotts against Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 898

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 898, a bill to provide incentives to physicians to practice in rural and medically underserved communities, and for other purposes.

S. 1539

At the request of Mrs. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1539, a bill to protect victims of stalking from gun violence.

S. 1685

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1685, a bill to require Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to establish procedures for considering certain credit scores in making a determination whether to purchase a residential mortgage, and for other purposes.

S. 1746

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1746, a bill to require the Congressional Budget Office to make publicly available the fiscal and mathematical models, data, and other details of computations used in cost analysis and scoring.

S. 1945

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1945, a bill to regulate large capacity ammunition feeding devices.

S. 2038

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2038, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a presumption of herbicide exposure for certain veterans who served in Korea, and for other purposes.

S. 2076

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Maryland

(Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2076, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the expansion of activities related to Alzheimer's disease, cognitive decline, and brain health under the Alzheimer's Disease and Healthy Aging Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2101

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2101, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the crew of the USS *Indianapolis*, in recognition of their perseverance, bravery, and service to the United States.

S. 2208

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2208, a bill to provide for the issuance of an Alzheimer's Disease Research Semipostal Stamp.

S. 2295

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2295, a bill to increase the rates of pay under the General Schedule and other statutory pay systems and for prevailing rate employees by 3.0 percent, and for other purposes.

S. 2319

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2319, a bill to empower States to manage the development and production of oil and gas on available Federal land, and for other purposes.

S. 2324

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2324, a bill to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to change certain requirements relating to the capital structure of business development companies, to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise certain rules relating to business development companies, and for other purposes.

S. 2335

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2335, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to issue permits for recreation services on lands managed by Federal agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 2374

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2374, a bill to amend the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012, including making changes to the Do Not

Pay Initiative, for improved detection, prevention, and recovery of improper payments to deceased individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 2383

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2383, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve law enforcement access to data stored across borders, and for other purposes.

S. 2393

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2393, a bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to provide Federal protection to the digital audio transmission of a sound recording fixed before February 15, 1972, and for other purposes.

S. 2416

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2416, a bill to amend titles 5, 10, and 37, United States Code, to ensure that an order to serve on active duty under section 12304b of title 10, United States Code, is treated the same as other orders to serve on active duty for determining the eligibility of members of the uniformed services for certain benefits.

S. 2421

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2421, a bill to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to provide an exemption from certain notice requirements and penalties for releases of hazardous substances from animal waste at farms.

S. 2427

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 2427, a bill to establish a task force to identify countervailable subsidies and dumping.

S. 2456

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2456, a bill to reauthorize and expand the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016.

S. 2457

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2457, a bill to provide a work opportunity tax credit for military spouses and to provide for flexible spending arrangements for childcare services for military families.

S. 2458

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr.

WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2458, a bill to authorize the Attorney General to deny the transfer of firearms and explosives and Federal firearms and explosives licenses and permits to known or suspected terrorists.

S. 2478

At the request of Mrs. McCASKILL, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2478, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny the deduction for advertising and promotional expenses for prescription drugs.

S. RES. 377

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 377, a resolution recognizing the importance of paying tribute to those individuals who have faithfully served and retired from the Armed Forces of the United States, designating April 18, 2018, as "Military Retiree Appreciation Day", and encouraging the people of the United States to honor the past and continued service of military retirees to their local communities and the United States.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. UDALL, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. JONES, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. SMITH, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 2495. A bill to reauthorize the grant program for school security in the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, 1 week ago today I stood here and urged my colleagues on both the left and the right to lay aside their differences and work together to prevent future tragedies like that in Parkland, FL.

It has been nearly 3 weeks since the murder of 17 students and staff at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. While time will continue to march on, our resolve to do something about school violence must grow only stronger.

Over the past 3 weeks my colleagues have put forth a number of legislative proposals. Some are recycled versions of earlier proposals, while others propose creative new ideas. Some enjoy broad bipartisan support, while others have not been widely embraced. We have seen much discussion and debate but little legislative progress. To break the impasse, we must unite on the issues where we agree.

Let today be the day that we come together to take a meaningful step to-

ward legislation that has the potential to prevent school gun violence, save lives, and restore the sense of peace and security that all children should enjoy when they walk through the doors of their respective schools.

Today I come together with my partners on both sides of the aisle to introduce the Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing School Violence Act, or STOP School Violence Act. As I outlined on the Senate floor last week, the bill will make Department of Justice grants available to fund four initiatives. Last week I outlined those four initiatives, and today I would like to describe them in even greater detail.

First, the bill will provide grants to be used for evidence-based training to prevent student violence against others and self, including training for local law enforcement officers, school personnel, and students.

One kind of training this bill would fund could prevent many incidents of school violence. Over the last 25 years, research has revealed that in 7 out of 10 acts of gun violence, a friend or someone else was told that an act of violence would be committed before it happened. In one study, it was reported that in four out of five school shootings, the attacker had told people of his plans ahead of time.

We must ensure that everyone in the school ecosystem is educated to recognize the signs of a potential threat and likewise—students, teachers, and administrators—take action and follow up when they see warning signs. By building a culture in which students and teachers understand the importance of reporting possible threats of violence, this bill will save lives and help keep our communities safe.

Second, the bill will fund evidence-based technology and equipment to improve school security and prevent school violence.

After the shooting at Columbine High School nearly 19 years ago, I authored legislation that made Department of Justice grant funds available for metal detectors, locks, lighting, and other deterrent measures. The Secure Our Schools Program, which ran from 2002 through 2011, was the only Federal school safety program that exclusively provided direct funding for the purchase and implementation of security technologies to improve school safety. The legislation I am introducing today will reauthorize and build on that program to provide funding for proven school security infrastructure improvements consistent with schools' individualized needs and industry best practices. While we certainly don't need to turn our schools into fortresses, we must do more to protect our children from harm.

Third, the bill will provide funding for the development and operation of evidence-based school threat assessment and crisis intervention teams, which may include evidence-based training for school officials in responding to mental health crises. These mul-

tidisciplinary teams—based on existing staff of school personnel, administrators, law enforcement, and mental health professionals—can implement proven, evidence-based approaches like the Virginia Student Threat Assessment Guidelines. These guidelines, which have been documented to be effective in field tests and controlled studies, provide schools with a safe, structured, and efficient way to respond to student threats of violence. Used at thousands of schools across the country, these are the types of proactive, preventive solutions that should be available for all schools.

Fourth, the bill will authorize funding for continued coordination with local law enforcement.

These four initiatives do not operate in isolation but together are a comprehensive approach to improving school security and reducing student violence. Training students and teachers to identify and report warning signs is critical to stopping acts of school violence before they happen.

As we saw in Parkland, having folks identify warning signs is not enough. There must be a process for acting on this information when it is brought to the attention of school administrators or law enforcement officials. The school threat assessment and crisis intervention teams that could be funded through this bill will ensure that schools have an effective procedure for evaluating and responding to potential threats of school violence.

Unfortunately, no amount of prevention will ever be able to stop every act of school violence before it happens. For those hopefully rare instances where we cannot intervene ahead of time, this bill ensures that funding is available to assist schools with commonsense security infrastructure improvements to harden schools and make it more difficult for attackers to succeed. Through each step of this process, local law enforcement has an important role to play in partnering with school personnel to prevent and respond to incidents of school violence.

States are already taking the lead in these areas to ensure that our schools are safe and secure. Last week I highlighted the Safe Utah smartphone app, a statewide service that provides real-time crisis intervention to youth through texting and a confidential tip program. Since the app was unveiled in 2016, 86 planned school attacks have been stopped. Utah and other States across the country are rolling out proven solutions that prevent and reduce student violence.

We must respect the leading role of the States in this space, and we must do what we can to ensure that proven, evidence-based solutions are available to protect all students nationwide. The STOP School Violence Act will complement and magnify those efforts at the State and local level. With a requirement that States and localities contribute to the cost of these programs, my bill will authorize \$75 million in fiscal year 2018 and \$100 million

each year for the following 10 years. In total, that is more than \$1 billion to secure our schools and train our students, teachers, and law enforcement.

Many of my colleagues have called for reforms and restrictions related to firearms—something this bill does not address. Those are important discussions, and I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on these and other issues. In the meantime, we need to work with what we have, and what we have in the STOP School Violence Act is good, commonsense legislation that can save hundreds of lives. I will not pretend that my bill is a catch-all solution to the problem of school violence. It is not, but it is a start. Indeed, this bipartisan proposal is the catalyst to a critical conversation that will take place in the weeks and months to come.

For far too long, we have allowed politics to get in the way of real reform. For far too long, we have been holed up in our partisan foxholes, ducking the difficult issues of the day in hopes that the problem of school violence would solve itself. For far too long, we have clung to our rhetorical weapons, but now is the time to lay those weapons aside. Now is the time to reconcile our differences for the good of our Nation and for the good of our children. As I said last week, now is not the time for argument but for action.

Rather than letting the perfect be the enemy of the good, I implore my friends on both sides of the aisle to come together for the safety of our children. Rather than resorting to recycled talking points, I ask my colleagues to heed minority leader SCHUMER's call to "pass real legislation that makes a difference." I thought that was a good statement.

Mr. President, I wish to emphasize the singularity of the opportunity we have in front of us. My bill represents a respite from the anger and acrimony that far too often pervade our politics. It is a symbol of the great good we can accomplish when we come together in common cause. Already, dozens of my colleagues from both the left and the right have signed on to support this bill. The STOP Act is just the start we need to prevent violence in our schools, so let's come together to get this done, and I hope we can.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2018

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, March 6; 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. I further ask that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2155 with the time until

the cloture vote equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; further, that following disposition of the Doughty nomination, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2155; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. and that all time during recess, adjournment, morning business, leader remarks, and the Doughty confirmation vote count postcloture on the motion to proceed to S. 2155.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The Senator from Pennsylvania.

RUSSIA INVESTIGATION BY SPECIAL COUNSEL MUELLER

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I restate my support for the investigations by Robert Mueller into Russia's election interference, as well as to condemn the partisan attacks on the independent investigation being led by Robert Mueller, who has been an honorable public servant over many decades.

In 2016, our Nation came under attack by a hostile foreign power. Everyone knows that now. Our election process—the bedrock of our system of government—was targeted by Russian agents. They used a variety of measures to pursue their goals. The intelligence community's unclassified report concluded:

We assess Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered an influence campaign in 2016 aimed at the U.S. presidential election. Russia's goals were to undermine public faith in the U.S. democratic process, denigrate Secretary Clinton, and harm her electability and potential presidency. We further assess Putin and the Russian Government developed a clear preference for President-elect Trump.

That is from the unclassified report of our intelligence community.

These brazen and illegal actions have already resulted in the indictments of 13 Russian individuals and three Russian companies as part of Special Counsel Mueller's investigation.

Russia may not have used traditional military force against us, but the actions they took present just as serious a threat to our national security. Make no mistake, when a foreign adversary targets an American election, it has targeted America, itself. Yet the President, whose own campaign is being examined as part of the Russia investigation, has refused to enforce sanctions against Russia. He has refused to fight back against Putin and his regime, despite there being clear evidence that

they attacked us. The President's failure to take action against Russia underscores the urgent need for Special Counsel Mueller's independent investigation to continue unfettered.

In this investigation, Mr. Mueller has already amassed enough evidence to have a grand jury indict Russian operatives and high-ranking members of the Trump campaign, including former Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort and deputy campaign manager Rick Gates. Other Trump advisers, like Mr. Papadopoulos and Michael Flynn, have pled guilty to Federal crimes.

Unfortunately, as this evidence has come forward, unwarranted, dangerous, and partisan attacks on Mr. Mueller's investigation and on Mr. Mueller, himself, have accelerated; yet a brief glance at Mr. Mueller's lifetime of service reflects his commitment to serving the American people with honor, integrity, and courage that, I think, is unmatched by anyone I know in Washington. Here are a couple of examples.

As a young man, Mr. Mueller served with distinction in the Vietnam war and was awarded a Bronze Star, two Navy Commendation Medals, the Purple Heart, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry for his leadership and exemplary service.

Mr. Mueller received the Bronze Star for his "heroic achievement" after leading his fellow marines through an 8-hour battle, where, under enemy fire, "Second Lieutenant Mueller fearlessly moved from one position to another, directing the accurate counterfire of his men and shouting words of encouragement to them. . . . [H]e then skillfully supervised the evacuation of casualties from the hazardous fire area." After that battle, he was promoted to first lieutenant.

Just 4 months later, he sustained a bullet wound when he responded to an ambush by enemy forces on marines who were in his command. For his heroic response, Mr. Mueller received the Navy Commendation Medal with a citation praising him for rushing to save his fellow marines while "completely disregarding his own safety."

I will give a recitation of some of the record that Special Counsel Mueller developed long before he was named to this position. I was going through his actions as a marine in combat, and I have a few more parts of his record to review.

Mr. Mueller not only fought courageously on the battlefield, but upon returning home earned his law degree. He continued serving his country throughout his legal career.

After serving in U.S. attorney's offices in both Boston and San Francisco for over a decade, he later served at the Justice Department leading the Criminal Division of the Justice Department under President George H.W. Bush. There he oversaw cases ranging from the prosecution of the Panamanian dictator, Manuel Noriega, to the Lockerbie bombing.

In 1995, Mr. Mueller left a high-paying position in the private sector to join the DC U.S. attorney's office—in this case, the Homicide Division—working to hold violent offenders accountable for their crimes.

Three years later, he became a U.S. attorney himself, serving again in San Francisco and earning a reputation as a dogged and fair prosecutor committed to enforcing the rule of law.

In 2001, Mr. Mueller was nominated by a second Republican President, President George W. Bush, to be the Director of the FBI. He was then confirmed unanimously by this body. His tenure at the FBI included leading the response to the September 11 attacks, spearheading the Bureau's efforts to combat cyber crime, which has been widely praised. In fact, in 2011, when his 10-year term was scheduled to end, we in the Senate voted 100 to 0 to extend his term as FBI Director through 2013, another 10 years.

Though our political system has become more polarized, each time Mr. Mueller has been named or nominated for a new position, he has received unqualified praise from people across the political spectrum and rightly so.

With Mr. Mueller's record as a war hero, a dedicated public servant, and an expert in law enforcement, it is hard to imagine anyone better suited to lead the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election. There is no one in Washington, DC, or, frankly, in all of America better prepared to do this job.

Serious congressional oversight of executive branch operations is always

appropriate. However, the reckless partisan attacks on Mr. Mueller's investigation and on Mr. Mueller himself are not the same as congressional oversight. Such attacks have made us less safe as a nation. The political smears like those we have seen undermine our rule of law and strike at the heart of our democracy. They are a disservice to the brave men and women in law enforcement who put their lives on the line to keep all of us safe.

As Members of the U.S. Congress, we have a duty to uphold the rule of law and the principles of fairness and independence that American democracy is built upon.

I call on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to defend the integrity of Mr. Mueller's investigation and reject the politically motivated attempts to discredit the investigation and its underlying conclusions. I call on the House and Senate majority to give us a vote on legislation to protect Special Counsel Mueller's independence and ensure that he can continue his investigation free from interference.

To ensure the integrity of our elections and our democracy, we must make sure we never allow a hostile foreign power to interfere in our electoral process again, and to do that we must allow the special counsel to get to the bottom of what Russia did in 2016 and whether it was aided by American individuals. That is what the whole investigation is about—those two parts.

History, of course, will be our judge. We will be judged about how we handled this crisis. We know that in 1787, when the Constitutional Convention

had just adjourned, Benjamin Franklin was asked what kind of government the Convention had chosen for our young nation. He responded that the Convention has given us “[a] Republic, if you can keep it.”

Democratic principles are only as strong as those elected to uphold them. I hope my colleagues will stand together and stand strong to preserve the rule of law and the institutions of this Republic we have been given, and we must “keep it,” as Franklin said.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:17 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, March 6, 2018, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate March 5, 2018:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

JEFFREY GERRISH, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A DEPUTY UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE (ASIA, EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST, AND INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS), WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

THE JUDICIARY

KAREN GREN SCHOLER, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS.

TILMAN EUGENE SELF III, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF DONALD W. LEMKA

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today we commemorate the life and service of Supervisory Special Agent Donald W. Lemka (Don) who passed away at the young age of 41 last year after a valiant battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Tracey, and daughter, Madison Bridges.

Don served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps where his assignments included work on Marine One as Crew Chief and at three U.S. embassies. He then continued his service to our country as a special agent at the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Don's first office assignment was at the San Antonio Field Office's Resident Agency in Austin, Texas, where he worked until 2015.

Given the confidential nature of his work, many of his accomplishments cannot be made public. The people of South and Central Texas are more secure today because of honorable Americans like Don who protect them from global and domestic threats they are often not aware of. We owe Don a debt of gratitude for a life well lived in service to his country.

RECOGNIZING THE 83RD ANNUAL FLORIDA STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

HON. DENNIS A. ROSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 83rd Annual Florida Strawberry Festival in Plant City, Florida, an important celebration in my district.

Plant City, Florida, is recognized as the Winter Strawberry Capital of the World, and the state of Florida is the second largest strawberry producing state in the United States, with more than 10,000 acres of strawberries planted annually.

The Florida Strawberry Festival serves to bring the community together to celebrate the agricultural and historical legacy of the Florida strawberry. The festival is scheduled to take place over eleven days this year, and has provided family-friendly fun since 1930 and welcomes over 500,000 visitors from across the country to enjoy musical concerts, agricultural exhibits, parades, youth developmental programs, other forms of entertainment, and delicious strawberry treats.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize this treasured community tradition that has brought together countless participants, volunteers, and sponsors. I thank all of those who have given their time and resources to make the Florida Strawberry Festival such a cherished tradition in our community.

OATH OF CITIZENSHIP ON MARCH 9, 2018

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate twenty-five individuals who will take their oaths of citizenship on March 9, 2018. This memorable occasion will be held at the United States Courthouse and Federal Building in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a country founded by immigrants. From its beginning, settlers have come from countries around the world to the United States in search of better lives for their families. Oath ceremonies are a shining example of what is so great about the United States of America—that people from all over the world can come together and unite as members of a free, democratic nation. These individuals realize that nowhere else in the world offers a better opportunity for success than here in America.

On March 9, 2018, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, will take their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Domingo Virruete, Bernadette Augustynski, Haroldas Vysniauskas, Jose Otoniel Campos, Maria Georgina Rivera, Jorge Robles, Humberto Morales Jr., Ernestina Caro, Omar Awad Sobih, Maria Francisca Aguliar, Katie Rizhkov, Haneen Mohammad Al-Zeer, Rania Shwqi Abudayyeh, Christine Nasr Mousa, Tannya Marisa Viramontes, Paul Alejandro Beltran, Jimmy Trang, Lissette Jesus Sayan Thompson, George Gonzalez, Luis Alberto Salazar, Ana M. Ramirez, Hina Naz Chaudhry, Beth Wanjiru Kavolu, Said Saad, and Karoline R. Stiglich.

Although each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupation, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country “. . . of the people, by the people, and for the people.” They realize that the United States is truly a free nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision that they want to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals who will become citizens of the United States of America on March 9, 2018. They, too, are American citizens, guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate them and welcome them.

RECOGNIZING NACDS RXIMPACT DAY

HON. MARKWAYNE MULLIN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Tenth Annual NACDS RxIMPACT Day on Capitol Hill. This is a special day where we will have the chance to recognize pharmacy's many contributions to the American health care system.

Organized by the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS) for the past decade, this event will take place March 7–8, 2018. This year alone, more than 400 individuals from the pharmacy community—including practicing pharmacists, pharmacy school faculty and students, state pharmacy association representatives and pharmacy company leaders—will visit us here on Capitol Hill. Advocates from all 50 states will share their views with us about the importance of supporting their access agenda—legislative priorities that will ensure that our constituents will continue to have access to more than 40,000 community and neighborhood pharmacies across the country and be better able to utilize pharmacists to improve health care quality while reducing the cost of care.

Patients have always relied on their local pharmacist to meet their health care needs and we as policymakers know our local pharmacists to be important community leaders. They are trusted, highly accessible health care providers deeply committed to providing high quality, convenient, and efficient health care services.

As demand for health care services continues to grow, pharmacists have expanded their role in health care delivery, partnering with physicians, nurses and other health care providers to meet their patients' needs. Innovative services provided by pharmacists do even more to improve overall patient health and wellness.

Pharmacists are highly valued by those that rely on them most—those in rural and underserved areas, as well as older Americans, and those struggling to manage chronic diseases. Pharmacy services improve patients' quality of life as well as health care affordability. By helping patients take their medications effectively and providing preventive services, pharmacists help avoid more costly forms of care. Pharmacists also help patients identify strategies to save money, such as through better understanding of their pharmacy benefits, using generic medications, and obtaining 90-day supplies of prescription drugs from local pharmacies.

Pharmacists are the nation's most accessible health care providers. In many communities, especially in rural areas, the local pharmacist is a patient's most direct link to health care. Utilizing their specialized education, pharmacists play a major role in medication therapy management, disease-state management, immunizations, health care screenings,

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

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

and other health care services designed to improve patient health and reduce overall health care costs. Pharmacists are also expanding their role into new models of care based on quality of services and outcomes, such as accountable care organizations (ACOs) and medical homes.

The pharmacy advocates of NACDS RxIMPACT Day on Capitol Hill will be promoting an access agenda. They know that we face difficult debates about the future of health care and the pharmacy community wishes to work with us to help in the effort to develop comprehensive and consistent approaches to public policy that put pharmacy's value to work for patients and payers. They understand well that the issues we are debating today are highly connected and vital to pharmacy, to all of health care, and to society as a whole.

I believe Congress should look at every opportunity to make sure that pharmacists are allowed to utilize their training to the fullest to provide the services that can improve care, increase access and lower costs. In recognition of the Tenth Annual NACDS RxIMPACT Day on Capitol Hill, I would like to congratulate pharmacy leaders, pharmacists, students, and the entire pharmacy community represented by NACDS, for their contributions to the health and wellness of the American people.

IN HONOR OF LOGAN GROSZ AND SEAMUS CASEY'S SELECTION AS WYOMING'S TOP YOUTH VOLUNTEERS, AND SADIE HOGAN AND MICKAYLA VANNATTER AS DISTINGUISHED FINALISTS BY THE PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Logan Grosz and Seamus Casey for being honored as Wyoming's top youth volunteers by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, and Sadie Hogan and Mickayla Vannatter for being recognized as Distinguished Finalists.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards is a nationwide program that recognizes four middle level and high school students from each state for their outstanding volunteerism. Each year, two students are selected as the State Honorees, and two as Distinguished Finalists. This year's honored students are committed to service and to going above and beyond for their communities.

Logan Grosz was selected as the High School State Honoree for Wyoming for his dedication to supporting the Children's Hospital Colorado. As a patient and its Champion for the State of Wyoming, he organizes and runs fundraisers that have raised over \$7,500 for the hospital and its other patients.

Seamus Casey is this year's Middle Level State Honoree for his support of the Folds of Honor Foundation. Last summer, he designed and completed his own triathlon, raising \$10,000 for the Foundation's scholarships for family members of fallen or disabled servicemen.

Sadie Hogan was recognized as a Distinguished Finalist for her leadership in a project

that compiled and distributed sacks of food and toiletries to homeless members of her community.

Mickayla Vannatter was recognized as a Distinguished Finalist for her program that encourages children at her school to choose inclusion over bullying.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Logan, Seamus, Sadie, and Mickayla. They have set excellent examples for their friends and families, and I appreciate all they do to support the great state of Wyoming and our great country.

GUN VIOLENCE

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 26, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss the issue of gun violence in America.

This Valentine's Day, February 14, 2018, marked the thirtieth mass shooting in our country this year, when a mentally unstable 19-year-old opened fire on Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida with an AR-15 military style weapon, killing 17 individuals and injuring 15 others.

We extend our deepest sympathies to all those affected by this tragedy and recognize the skill and heroism of the law enforcement officers and first responders who came to the aid of others.

We commend the efforts of those who are working to care for the injured and investigate this horrific incident.

We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to the families of the fallen, and to all those affected in the community of Parkland, Florida and in the United States.

The horrifying events in Parkland mark the 378th mass shooting in the U.S. since 2017, and the 30th this year, according to Gun Violence Archive.

Mass shootings are a near daily occurrence in America, but what happened in Las Vegas on October 1, 2017 stands out: It was the deadliest such incident in U.S. history, with more than 58 killed and 515 injured.

A mass shooting is defined by Gun Violence Archive as any incident in which four or more are shot and/or killed in a single event, at the same general time and location not including the shooter.

Recent U.S. mass shootings include:

Las Vegas, 2017: 58 killed; 515 wounded
Orlando, 2016: 50 killed
Virginia Tech, 2007: 32 killed
Sandy Hook, 2012: 27 killed
San Ysidro, 1984: 21 killed
San Bernadino, 2015: 14 killed
Edmond, 1986: 14 killed
Fort Hood, 2009: 13 killed
Columbine, 1999: 13 killed
Charleston, 2015: 9 killed

There were more than 11,600 deaths linked to gun violence in 2017, which is roughly equivalent to nearly four 9/11 attacks in terms of the total number killed on September 11, 2001.

Comparatively, more than 15 thousand were killed by gun violence in 2016, and there were 383 mass shootings.

It is horrifying to admit that gun violence now seems to be a staple of American life.

The United States ranks No. 1 in the world in terms of firearms per capita—with 88.8 guns per 100 people—and it has the highest homicide-by-firearm rate in the developed world.

The problem is so endemic that gun violence is now the third leading cause of death for children in the U.S.

An average of 1,297 children die annually from gun-related injuries.

Guns are linked to roughly 33 thousand deaths in the U.S. per year; about two-thirds of them are suicides.

According to Pew Research Center, a majority of Americans (across partisan lines) support gun policy proposals such as barring people with mental illnesses from buying guns; prohibiting gun purchases by people on federal no-fly or watch lists; and background checks for private gun sales and sales at gun shows.

America has six times as many firearm homicides as Canada, and nearly 16 times as many as Germany.

United Nations data shows that America far and away leads other developed countries when it comes to gun-related homicides.

America has 4.4 percent of the world's population, but almost half of the civilian-owned guns around the world.

In December 2012, a gunman walked into Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, and killed 20 children, six adults, and himself.

Since then, there have been at least 1,518 mass shootings, with at least 1,715 people killed and 6,089 wounded.

The fairly broad definition of "mass shooting" includes not only shootings in which four or more people were murdered, but shootings in which four or more people were shot at all (excluding the shooter).

Even under this broad definition, mass shootings make up a tiny portion of America's firearm deaths, which totaled more than 33,000 in 2014.

On average, there is more than one mass shooting for each day in America.

Whenever a mass shooting occurs, supporters of gun rights often argue that it is inappropriate to bring up political debates about gun control in the aftermath of a tragedy.

For example, former Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, a strong supporter of gun rights, criticized former President Barack Obama for "trying to score cheap political points" when Obama mentioned gun control after a mass shooting in Charleston, South Carolina.

But if this argument is followed to its logical end, then it will never be the right time to discuss mass shootings.

Under the broader definition of mass shootings, America has nearly one mass shooting a day.

So if Congress is forced to wait for a time when there is not a mass shooting to talk gun control, Congress could find itself waiting for a very long time.

The time for responding to mass shootings with thoughts and prayers has long since passed.

The time for responding with effective legislation is now.

I have called upon this Administration to secure the passage of H.R. 4268, the "Gun Safety Not Sorry Act," legislation I have introduced that would impose a 7-day waiting, or "cooling off," period prior to the purchase or

transfer of ownership of a semiautomatic firearm, silencers, armor piercing ammunition, or large capacity ammunition magazines.

According to Newsweek, the “Gun Safety Not Sorry Act” is the No. 1 legislative proposal that Congress can and should pass right now.

The majority must cut its close ties to the powerful gun lobby to facilitate useful gun control legislation necessary immediately.

The “Gun Safety Not Sorry Act will not abridge the Second Amendment, it will not take away gun rights, and it does not impose greater restrictions on gun ownership—it will not stop all mass shootings but it will certainly help.

In the wake of the horrific Valentine’s Day mass shooting in Parkland, Florida, the emboldened survivors of the high school shooting are calling for immediate gun reform.

States with tighter gun control laws have fewer gun-related deaths.

I will soon introduce legislation to keep our children safe from mass shootings: the “No More Atrocities with Guns Act” (No MAGA Act) raises the minimum age from 18 to 21 for a person to purchase or possess semi-automatic assault weapons.

Teenagers, whose brains are not yet fully developed should not yet be entrusted with a weapon that is designed to inflict maximum damage in minimum time.

Americans cannot understand how it is legally possible for a 19-year-old mentally unstable person to purchase such a highly lethal weapon such as the AR-15 assault rifle and then use that weapon to slaughter 17 high school students.

Although Americans say they want to protect the right to bear arms, they are very much supportive of many gun policy proposals—including some fairly contentious ideas, such as more background checks on private and gun show sales and banning semi-automatic and assault-style weapons.

Mass shootings occur more frequently in states that do not require background checks for all gun sales.

Analyses of mass shootings in the United States between 2009 and 2015 document that the majority of mass shootings occur in venues where the carrying of firearm is not restricted.

In states that require background checks for all handgun sales, including guns offered in unlicensed sales online and at gun shows, there are 52 percent fewer mass shootings.

Congress must take action to prevent other incidents such as the recent act of terror and hatred in Parkland, Florida that resulted in the tragic loss of 17 innocent lives.

There have been 32 moments of silence observed on the House Floor related to Gun Violence since 2012.

The time for moments of silence has long since passed.

The American people are demanding moments of action.

I pledge to continue to work to reduce gun violence and prevent mass shootings.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARCUS RASKIN

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of a strong voice in the progressive movement, and a great mentor and friend, Marcus Raskin. Marcus’ exceptional work as a national security staffer, political theorist, and progressive thought leader has deeply shaped our nation’s consciousness about war, economic inequality, and civil rights.

Born in 1934 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Marcus initially pursued a career as a pianist, before changing direction and studying law and policy at the University of Chicago. After attaining his law degree, Marcus moved to Washington D.C. and became a staffer for Representatives Robert W. Kastenmeier & James Roosevelt.

He quickly distinguished himself as a leading voice of liberal thought, and was hired as staff on the National Security Council by President Kennedy’s National Security Advisor, McGeorge Bundy. He also later served in the Bureau of the Budget (now the Office of Management and Budget), and the Presidential Panel on Education.

Following his service in the Kennedy Administration, Raskin formed the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) along with Richard Barnett. As a progressive policy think-tank, IPS was the first of its kind. To this day, the institute remains committed to economic and racial justice, climate justice, peace and foreign policy, community engagement, and leadership development.

Marcus also played a pivotal role in the release of the Pentagon Papers during the Nixon Administration. His criticisms of the Vietnam War and American military policy led to Daniel Ellsberg noticing Marcus and relying on his help to get the leaked documents to reporters at the New York Times. This initiated a watershed moment in our country’s history about the need for transparency and accountability in government.

I first met Marcus Raskin, during the mid-1970’s, while I worked on Capitol Hill for Congressman Ron Dellums, and I am grateful to him for his wise counsel over the years. Marcus was one of the first to congratulate me on my election to Congress, and acted as a reassuring confidant as I considered my vote against the overly broad 2001 authorization to use military force.

Marcus Raskin passed on December 24, 2017, and is survived by his wife, Lynn, and his children Erika, Eden, Noah, and my colleague in Congress—JAMIE.

Today, on behalf of California’s 13th Congressional District, it is my honor to commend Marcus Raskin for his moral leadership and to thank him for his mentorship. I cherish my time serving alongside his son, Representative JAMIE RASKIN of Maryland’s 8th Congressional District and wish my sincere condolences to the rest of his surviving family.

THE INVALUABLE HELP OF ANDY IGREJAS IN STRENGTHENING THE LAUTENBERG TSCA REFORM ACT

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding contributions Andy Igrejas has made in improving the lives of the American people through his tireless advocacy and expertise in reducing public exposure to harmful chemicals.

A native of Bloomfield, New Jersey and a proud graduate of Rutgers College, Andy has worked on environmental health and government reform issues in New Jersey, California, and Washington, D.C. over his decades of service.

Every day, we see the steps the Environmental Protection Agency is taking to implement the Lautenberg TSCA Reform law passed in 2016. While that implementation is so far not living up to the letter of the law, we will continue to work to hold the EPA accountable for meeting its essential duty under the law: removing toxic chemicals from commerce and from our homes.

We are only able to do this because of important changes that were made in the Lautenberg Act as it went through Congress—changes that came about because of Andy’s tireless work and dedication as Executive Director of the Safer Chemicals Healthy Families Coalition.

The work to reform the Toxic Substances Control Act began in earnest in 2009, when the major stakeholders published principles for reform. It was that year that Andy organized the Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families coalition to create a unified voice for health, environmental, and labor organizations interested in advancing chemical policy reform.

With Andy as its director, the coalition has grown to include 450 organizations and small businesses from across the country and across the political spectrum. By unifying these groups, Andy made their voices stronger, strong enough to stand up to extraordinary expenditures from industry interests.

Andy’s work also kept the interest in TSCA reform alive when negotiating a deal seemed impossible. Andy’s appreciation for the role of entrepreneurship and the private sector in creating positive social change led to the coalition’s decision to launch Mind the Store, an initiative challenging the nation’s largest retailers to restrict hazardous chemicals in their supply chains. It was that effort at the retail level, along with legislative efforts in the states, which kept industry at the table pursuing a comprehensive federal program.

I want to thank Andy for his bold thinking, tireless efforts, and strategic counsel to me and my staff, without which many of the public health and environmental improvements in the Lautenberg TSCA reform law would not have been possible.

SPECIAL OLYMPIAN, "BEEBO"

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, once Brendan West picked up a basketball, he was never able to put it down. Nicknamed "Beebo," Brendan is a 22 year old Special Olympian from Houston, Texas, who has become an aficionado of the game of basketball.

Beebo has Roberts Syndrome, a genetic disorder that delays the growth of limbs and facial features. He was born without arms, so naturally he learned to do everything with his feet. His father, Ray, and his mother, Ann, adopted Beebo when he was 6 weeks old. Doctors told his parents he wouldn't be able to do anything other than eat and go to the bathroom. His diagnosis didn't keep Beebo down for long, continuing to defy the odds.

Just about anytime and anywhere, you can find a smile on Beebo's face and a basketball between his feet. Beebo first learned how to play basketball when he was in Jr. High. With just his feet, he is able to dribble and shoot the ball with deadly accuracy. His basketball skills have earned him multiple titles and propelled him forward as an award winning Special Olympian. Beebo was even honored with an honorary ESPY, the Excellence in Sports Performance Yearly Award, last year. The basketball star has shot hoops with NBA player James Harden and even played with the world-renowned Harlem Globetrotters. Beebo is not only an amazing basketball player, but also an exceptional bowler and tennis player, winning gold medals in both events.

Perhaps the most shining quality Beebo exudes is his personality. When you step onto a basketball court, you can hear Beebo's laugh echoing from every corner. His enthusiasm for the game of basketball and life is infectious, and he inspires everyone around him.

I am honored to be able to spread the inspiring story of Beebo. His resiliency, determination, and grit all are to be admired and something we should all seek in our lives.

He is the perfect embodiment of what it means to be a Special Olympian and Houstonian. Keep playing basketball, Beebo, we will all be cheering him on.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I regrettably missed votes on Monday February 26 and Tuesday February 27, 2018. I had intended to vote "yes" on Roll Call vote 81, "yes" on vote 82, "no" on vote 83, "no" on vote 84, "no" on vote 85, "no" on vote 86, "no" on vote 87, "yes" on vote 88, "no" on vote 89, "yes" on vote 90, and "yes" on vote 91.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, due to an excused absence on February 14, 2018, I was unable to vote on Roll Call Vote Nos. 72 through 78. Had I been present I would have voted in the following matter:

On Roll Call Vote No. 72 on ordering the Previous Question for H. Res. 736 I intended to vote NAY.

On Roll Call Vote No. 73 on Agreeing to the Resolution for H. Res. 736 I intended to vote NAY.

On Roll Call Vote No. 74 on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H.R. 3542, Hamas Human Shields Prevention Act, as amended, I intended to vote YEA.

On Roll Call Vote No. 75 on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 129, Calling on the Department of Defense, other elements of the Federal Government, and foreign governments to intensify efforts to investigate, recover, and identify all missing and unaccounted-for personnel of the United States, I intended to vote YEA.

On Roll Call Vote No. 76 on Motion to Recommit with Instructions H.R. 3978, TRID Improvement Act, I intended to vote YEA.

On Roll Call Vote No. 77 on Passage of H.R. 3978, TRID Improvement Act, I intended to vote NAY.

On Roll Call Vote No. 78 on Passage of H.R. 3299, Protecting Consumers Access to Credit Act of 2017, I intended to vote NAY.

IN HONOR OF HOWARD AND JOAN KUNESH'S 71ST WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Howard and Joan Kunesh on the celebration of their 71st Wedding Anniversary.

This significant benchmark is a symbol of their commitment to each other and to their family. I am happy to join their friends and family in extending my best to them on this special occasion.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Howard and Joan on the celebration of their 71st Wedding Anniversary. I wish them the best today and for many more blessed years to come.

PI KAPPA ALPHA 150TH ANNIVERSARY RECOGNITION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and to recognize the Pi Kappa Alpha International Fraternity—a values-based men's fraternal organization with more than 225

chapters in the United States and Canada, approximately 16,000 undergraduate members, and over 290,000 lifetime members. In 2018, Pi Kappa Alpha celebrated the 150th anniversary of its founding on March 1, 1868 at the University of Virginia when six young men joined together and resolved to form a fraternity for the establishment of friendship on a firmer and more lasting basis. Their commitment to high ideals of scholarship, leadership and gentlemanly behavior remain strong to this day.

In 1868 there were 38 states. Pi Kappa Alpha predates two rows of stars on the American Flag. The nation of Canada, home to several Pi Kappa Alpha chapters, was founded one year earlier in 1867. The first organized baseball and football games were played in 1869. Coca-Cola was founded in 1886 and basketball was first played in 1891.

Pi Kappa Alpha has persevered and grown through world wars, generational and cultural changes, depressions, recessions, and other challenges on college campuses that have at times threatened its existence. Its members have explored space, served as leaders of business and industry, filled the ranks of public servants in the arenas of education, government and the military; authored books; performed on athletic fields and entertainment venues.

Throughout its history Pi Kappa Alpha has answered the call to arms to preserve and protect the United States of America and its friends and allies. More than 600 Pi Kappa Alphas are recognized as Gold Star Heroes, making the ultimate sacrifice in conflicts dating back to the Spanish American War and including the War on Terror today.

Pi Kappa Alpha has prepared nearly 300,000 men to lead on their campuses and in their homes, communities, and businesses. It has endured and it thrives today because valuing friendship, showing love for your fellow man and defending the truth of its ideals are timeless, lifelong virtues.

Nearly 16,000 PIKE student members are impacting and influencing their campuses and communities today, serving as leaders in student government, Interfraternity councils, sports teams and student organizations. Collectively, PIKE chapters annually perform over 360,000 hours of community service and donate more than \$3.6 million to philanthropy.

These student leaders are supported by 2,500 men (and women) who volunteer to serve on advisory boards and house corporations. Over 150 alumni associations ensure that the admonition, "Once a Pike, Always a Pike," remains true, inspiring the lifetime fraternal experience for its members.

Pi Kappa Alpha seeks to enrich the undergraduate experience and the quality of its volunteer support through a comprehensive, industry-leading educational program that incorporates all aspects of the Fraternity including scholastic performance, personal development, leadership training, innovative learning, community engagement, campus involvement and participation.

Today, in its 150th year, Pi Kappa Alpha calls upon its members to live anew its legacy, to reflect on the principles of its Founders and to commit to a strong future for its great brotherhood. As a proud member of the Pi Kappa Alpha International Fraternity, I would like to congratulate the fraternity on its 150 years of success.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHIEF
THOMAS J. MORAN OF THE BUF-
FALO POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the exemplary life and career of Thomas J. Moran, Chief of the "A" District of the Buffalo Police Department, who passed away on March 1st of this year. Chief Moran was 49 years old.

Chief Moran first joined the Buffalo Police Department on February 4, 1994 at age 25, a recent graduate of the State University of New York at Brockport.

In May of 2006, he received the Edward H. Butler Award for Heroism for having successfully disrupted an armed robbery of a retail store in the Ferry-Fillmore district where he had been stationed.

After performing admirably in various roles as a Police Officer for eighteen years, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in April of 2012, and again promoted to Chief in June of 2013.

As Chief of the "A" District covering South Buffalo and the adjacent neighborhoods, he was known for his responsiveness and engagement with community stakeholders, for his clear leadership and helpful mentorship of the officers under his command, and for his dedication and commitment to the citizens of the City of Buffalo, to the Buffalo Police Department, and to the principles of law and order.

Like so many in my community, I am grateful to have known Chief Moran and to have called him a friend. I shall remain grateful for his leadership, and his work to serve and protect the people of South Buffalo and the entire City of Buffalo.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me and with Members of the House to express our deepest condolences to his wife, Kelly, to his daughters Ava and Lila, and to the entire family of the late Chief Tom Moran, and join me in recognizing his many years of dedicated public service.

HONORING DEBBIE DAVIS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Debbie Davis, editor and assistant publisher of The Davis Enterprise, for her service to the Davis community and to congratulate her on her retirement.

For over 38 years, Ms. Davis has helped unite and inform the Davis community through her work at The Davis Enterprise. Her work expertise has earned her a reputation as a respected journalist, and there is no doubt in my mind that her legacy will leave a lasting impact on the Davis community.

The breadth of Ms. Davis' accomplishments is in itself an achievement, and some of her most notable milestones include developing the 2017 centennial magazine that celebrated the businesses and leaders that built the

Davis community, the "Those Who Make Memories" book, and over 10,700 editions of The Davis Enterprise.

I speak on behalf of the entire Davis community when I say thank you to Debbie Davis for her generous service to our community. I wish her the best as she enjoys her well-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call Votes Nos. 83, 84, 85, 86 and 87 I am not recorded because I was not present in the House for that vote series. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner.

On Roll Call No. 83, I would have voted YEA.

On Roll Call No. 84, I would have voted YEA.

On Roll Call No. 85, I would have voted YEA.

On Roll Call No. 86, I would have voted YEA.

On Roll Call No. 87, I would have voted YEA.

RUSSELL N. COLLINS, JR.

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of the late Russell N. Collins, Jr., of Palmyra, New Jersey, for his service to our nation.

Russell N. Collins Jr. was born in Camden, New Jersey in 1925. He attended Woodrow Wilson High School where he was a gifted drum player in the school band. Upon learning of the surprise attack on the American naval base at Pearl Harbor, Mr. Collins enlisted into the United States Navy and proudly served his country during World War II as an original crew member of the USS *New Jersey* (BB-62), from 1943 to 1946.

After the war, Mr. Collins returned home to New Jersey and married his high school sweetheart, Helen S. Collins. They were married more than fifty years until Mrs. Collins' passing in 2004.

Later in life, Mr. Collins would return to the Battleship *New Jersey*, where he served as a volunteer and valued member of the floating Museum and Memorial along the Camden, New Jersey waterfront.

Mr. Collins is remembered by those close to him as having a hearty laugh, a gentle grin and was adept at storytelling. He was a Mason, a Shriner and an Odd Fellow, and was never seen without his USS *New Jersey* hat.

On December 21, 2017, Mr. Collins passed away at the age of 92. He was the last museum volunteer who served as a U.S. Navy sailor on the Battleship during World War II. Mr. Collins' life was a rich collection of love, friendship, loyalty, bravery, and heroism.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Russell N. Collins, Jr. was a true American hero. I ask you to join me in

celebrating this patriot and his selfless sacrifices on behalf of our grateful nation.

IN HONOR OF JIM AND JEAN
LAKE'S 50TH WEDDING ANNIVER-
SARY

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Jim and Jean Lake on the celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

This significant benchmark is a symbol of their commitment to each other and to their family. I am happy to join their friends and family in extending my best to them on this special occasion.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Jim and Jean on the celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary. I wish them the best today and for many more blessed years to come.

RETIREMENT RECOGNITION FOR
DIANE DZURISIN

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a tireless and visionary veteran and federal employee for her work to protect and improve the lives of her fellow citizens.

Diane Dzurisin is retiring after seventeen years with the VA, two decades in the military, and six years of long-term care nursing. It has been said that if you choose work that you love, then you never have to work another day. I suspect that has been the case for Diane during her impressive career. When my constituent services staff has needed guidance to resolve the most challenging VA cases, she has never failed to ensure that each veteran's concerns were appropriately and expeditiously addressed. Her awareness of and sensitivity to the unique challenges of adjudicating claims following military sexual trauma has lifted the burdens and changed the lives of countless veterans.

People like Diane Dzurisin never really retire—they reinvent. On behalf of a grateful nation, I want to thank her for her service, honor her for her dedication to veterans, and wish her all the best as she embarks on this new journey.

HONORING ELAINE BROWN ON HER
75TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th birthday of Elaine Brown, a community leader, civil rights activist, and advocate for the underrepresented.

Elaine Brown was born on March 2, 1943, in North Philadelphia, an area affected by significant poverty and racial segregation. She

was raised by her mother, Dorothy Clark, who worked to support her and instilled in her a love of music. Starting with classical piano lessons, Elaine grew as a songwriter and eventually moved to Los Angeles to pursue music as a career.

In LA, she engaged with the civil rights movement, and after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., Brown was motivated to join the Black Panther Party. As a party member, she helped establish the groundbreaking Free Breakfast for Children Program, Free Busing to Prisons Program, and Free Legal Aid Program.

In 1968, Brown was commissioned by David Hilliard, the Party Chief of Staff, to record the album "Seize the Time," which includes the anthem of the Black Panther Party. The Party's co-founder, Huey P. Newton, later commissioned her to record a second album, "Until We're Free", to promote the party's message, "All Power to the People."

In August of 1974, Elaine Brown took over as the chair of the Black Panther Party—the first and only woman to lead the revolutionary organization. Under her leadership, the party focused on electoral politics and community service. In 1977, she managed Lionel Wilson's victorious campaign to become Oakland's first black mayor. That same year, I was proud to work on her trailblazing campaign for the Oakland City Council.

After leaving the party in 1977, she wrote her memoir "A Taste of Power: A Black Woman's Story" in 1982 and returned to her work on the struggle of black liberation and prison reform. In 1996, Brown moved to Atlanta, Georgia, and founded Fields of Flowers, Inc., a non-profit committed to providing educational opportunities for impoverished African American children.

Elaine also founded Mothers Advocating Juvenile Justice and the Michael Lewis Legal Defense Committee, where she spent nearly two decades supporting the legal appeal of Michael "Little B" Lewis, who was wrongly accused of murder and tried as an adult at 13. Elaine wrote *The Condemnation of Little B*, exposing racism that affects millions of poor African Americans and the barbarity of trying children as adults. In 2003, Brown co-founded the National Alliance for Radical Prison Reform and has continued her advocacy by frequently lecturing at colleges and universities throughout the country.

Elaine continues to co-author many books and serves in leadership roles for various committees, and is the CEO of a non-profit organization, Oakland & The World Enterprises, Inc. which is dedicated to launching and sustaining for-profit businesses for cooperative-ownership by the formerly incarcerated and those facing monumental social barriers.

On a personal note, Elaine has been a "comrade" and friend since the early 1970's, whose friendship, intellect, and life's work I deeply appreciate and admire.

Today, on behalf of California's 13th Congressional District, it is my honor to celebrate Elaine Brown and her accomplishments, advocacy and contributions for the underrepresented. Her work toward the empowerment of women and minorities, especially African Americans, is a true inspiration to many.

WHY WE CAN WAIT NO LONGER
AND THE FIERCE URGENCY TO
ENACT NOW RESPONSIBLE GUN
VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEGIS-
LATION AFTER PARKLAND,
FLORIDA MASS SHOOTING

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call upon the President and the Congress of the United States to act without delay and pass legislation to prevent gun violence and mass casualties from shootings.

The community of Parkland, Florida—along with the rest of the country—is still reeling from the horrific tragedy that took place at the Marjorie Stoneman Douglass High School on Valentine's Day, February 14, 2018.

Our hearts still ache with sadness and disbelief for the families and loved ones of the 17 students—sons and daughters, brothers and sisters—who lost their lives in this senseless, horrific act of domestic terrorism.

It is safe to say that America is sick and tired of being sick and tired of gun violence.

That is why we must act now to stop gun violence, protect citizens, and save lives.

Here are the top 6 actions the President and the Congress can and must take now to protect our communities:

Require universal background checks to keep guns out of dangerous hands;

Extend the waiting period to purchase or transfer dangerous weapons like the AR-15 pending completion of background checks to 7 days;

Raise the minimum age to purchase or transfer dangerous weapons like the AR-15, high-capacity magazines, ammunitions, and silencers from 18 to 21 years of age;

Ban military-style assault weapons;
Limit high-capacity magazines; and
Increase access to mental health services.

We can take action without infringing on the 2nd Amendment rights of Americans.

We need to make it harder for criminals to obtain guns by strengthening the background check system.

We need to ensure that mental health professionals know their options for reporting threats of violence—even as we acknowledge that someone with a mental illness is far more likely to be the victim of a violent crime than the perpetrator.

We must also make safe gun storage a priority.

As the founder and Co-Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, a senior Member of the Judiciary Committee, and the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, I have listened far too often to the testimony of individuals who have survived tragedies or lost loved ones as a result of gun violence.

In the words of President Obama after the 2013 Sandy Hook Elementary shooting, "We're going to have to come together and take meaningful action to prevent more tragedies like this, regardless of the politics."

While it is certainly true that violent crime and homicide rates in this country have been declining in recent years, they are still far above those in other industrialized nations.

There exists a culture of violence in America; a subculture that with today's techno-

logically advanced weaponry is far more dangerous to public safety than ever before.

At no point in our nation's history has a single human been more capable of inflicting massive death and misery, and our society is producing more individuals who seek to employ such means to carry out their ill intentions.

Far too often, the tool of choice for would-be killers are military-style assault weapons with high-capacity magazines.

Every day, on average, 92 Americans are victims of gun violence, resulting in more than 33,000 deaths annually.

In raising this issue, we recognize and respect other cultures that exist in America; law-abiding citizens who are responsible in their ownership of firearms.

Many of these citizens are responsible with respect to the lethal capacity of their firearms, opting not to obtain assault weapons or to equip assault weapons with 30, 50, 75, or 100-round magazines.

Here is what I think the Congress can and must do to reduce gun violence without abridging the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding Americans.

Extend the waiting period to purchase or transfer dangerous weapons like the AR-15 pending completion of background checks to 7 days.

That is why I have introduced H.R. 4268, the "Gun Safety, Not Sorry Act."

Raise the minimum age to purchase or transfer dangerous weapons like the AR-15, high-capacity magazines, ammunitions, and silencers from 18 to 21 years of age.

That is why I have introduced H.R. 5088, the "No Mass Atrocities with Guns Act" ('No MAGA Act').

Reinstate and strengthen the federal ban on assault weapons.

I am an original co-sponsor of H.R. 3947, legislation that will reinstates the assault weapons ban that has been introduced by my colleague, Congressman DAVID CICILLINE of Rhode Island.

Reinstate a federal ban on bump stocks and high-capacity magazines holding more than ten rounds and allowing a shooter to inflict mass damage in a short period of time without reloading will save lives.

I will soon be introducing the "Stop Abuse, Violence, and Ending Lives Act of 2018," legislation to ban the sale and possession of bump stocks.

Require a background check for every gun sale, while respecting reasonable exceptions for cases such as gifts between family members and temporary loans for sporting purposes.

I am an original co-sponsor of H.R. 4240, the "Public Safety and Second Amendment Rights Protection Act of 2017," legislation that requires universal background checks and closes the gun show loophole that has been introduced by my colleague, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON of California.

It is estimated that four out of ten gun buyers do not go through a background check when purchasing a firearm because federal law only requires these checks when someone buys a gun from a federally licensed dealer.

That would be like allowing four out of ten people to choose if they would like to go through airport security.

This loophole allows felons, domestic abusers, and those prohibited because of mental

illness to easily bypass the criminal background check system and buy firearms at gun shows, through private sellers, over the internet or out of the trunks of cars.

Strengthen the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) database to ensure it is up to date by requiring federal and state agencies to transfer important records to the database expeditiously since without the information, the reliability of a background check is questionable.

Pass legislation aimed specifically at cracking down on illegal gun trafficking and straw-purchasing which often puts guns in the hands of people who are prohibited from having them.

Straw-purchasing is when a prohibited buyer has someone with no criminal history walk into a gun store, pass a background check and purchase a gun with the purpose of giving it to the prohibited buyer.

Restore funding for public safety and law enforcement initiatives aimed at reducing gun violence.

Congress should fund law enforcement's efforts to reduce gun violence, while supporting federal research into causes of gun violence.

There is no reason the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) or the National Institute of Health (NIH) should be prohibited from researching the causes of gun violence.

That is why I have co-sponsored H.R. 1832, legislation that authorizes the appropriation of funds to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for conducting or supporting research on firearms safety or gun violence prevention.

I have also co-sponsored H.R. 1478, the Gun Violence Research Act, which repeals the provision that in practice prohibits the Department of Health and Human Services from sponsoring research on gun violence.

And there is no reason for the restrictions federal law places on our law enforcement officers' ability to track and combat the spread of illegal guns.

Close the holes in our mental-health system and make sure that care is available for those who need it.

Congress must improve prevention, early intervention, and treatment of mental illness while working to eliminate the stigma associated with mental illness.

Access to mental health services should be improved, the shortage of mental health professionals should be addressed, and funding should be made available for those programs that have proven to be effective.

That is why I have co-sponsored H.R. 1982, the "Mental Health Access and Gun Violence Prevention Act," legislation that authorizes the Department of Justice, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Social Security Administration to: (1) increase access to mental health care treatment and services, and (2) promote reporting of mental health information to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

Help local communities get unwanted and illegal guns out of the hands of those who should not have them.

Congress should help support and develop local programs that get unwanted guns off our streets, such as gun buy-back programs that proved so effective in Australia.

Finally, we must address our culture's glorification of violence seen and heard through our movie screens, television shows, music and video games.

Congress should fund scientific research on the relationship between popular culture and gun violence, while ensuring that parents have access to the information they need to make informed decisions about what their families watch, listen to, and play.

Here is what I think neither the President, the Congress, nor state and local governments should not do to reduce gun violence.

We should not arm teachers because they are not trained to handle weapons; this is not what they signed up for.

We must not surrender to NRA even though the gun lobby has long enjoyed tremendous influence over congressional Republicans and some Democrats.

Persons who live in fear of gun violence and mass shootings at schools, theaters, places of worship and work, and public spaces are not afraid of the NRA.

What they are afraid of is an AR-15 in the hands of a mentally unstable person.

Americans are a can-do people; we do not bemoan our problems and accept terrible outcomes.

We act to solve them.

We have made our cars and trucks and roads safer and reduced traffic fatalities.

We have virtually eradicated polio, small pox, and other debilitating and life-threatening diseases.

We respond immediately to natural disasters caused by hurricanes, earthquakes, tornados, floods, and man-made disasters caused by acts of terrorism.

When it comes to reducing or preventing gun violence, we must summon that same spirit of American resolve and know-how and get the job done.

We can do it; after all, we are Americans.

IN HONOR OF TASHA MCKELVEY FOR EARNING THE SPAATZ AWARD AND RANK OF CADET COLONEL IN THE CIVIL AIR PATROL

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Cadet Colonel Tasha McKelvey on earning the Spaatz award and the rank of cadet colonel in the Civil Air Patrol.

The Spaatz Award is the highest cadet honor in the Civil Air Patrol, given to less than one percent of all cadets. It acknowledges those who have demonstrated excellent leadership, character, fitness, and aerospace knowledge in the CAP Cadet Program. During her time in the Wyoming Wing of the CAP, Ms. McKelvey has done just that. Among her peers, she is a leader and source of inspiration for inspiration during trying times. Her determination and grit also resulted in her passing the Spaatz exam on her first try, a rarity across the nation.

Ms. McKelvey is the first female and the sixth cadet within the Wyoming Wing to receive the Spaatz Award. I thank her for her commitment to serve our great nation. Her bravery, sacrifice, and resolve are truly admirable. Ms. McKelvey has set an excellent example to her family, friends, and peers.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Cadet Colonel Tasha McKelvey on

receiving the Civil Air Patrol's highest cadet honor, the Spaatz Award and the rank of cadet colonel. She and her family deserve to be extremely proud.

COMMEMORATING THE 165TH ANNIVERSARY OF STEINWAY & SONS

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 165th anniversary of a Queens treasure, and one of the world's most iconic brands—Steinway & Sons.

Steinway makes world-renowned pianos, distinguished for their grandness and masterful craftsmanship. Each piano consists of more than 12,000 individual parts, and is said to have its own musical character as unique as the individual who plays it. These magnificent works of art, I am proud to say, are made in my district.

The Steinway legacy dates back to 1853, when Heinrich Engelhard Steinway founded Steinway & Sons in New York, a few years after emigrating from Germany. The high quality and meticulous craftsmanship of Steinway's pianos led to rapid growth for the business and the opening of a factory in Queens. Along with the factory, the Steinway family established a company town, Steinway Village, which spurred development in the neighborhoods that are today known as Astoria and Long Island City in Queens, and they spread their family values of investing in community. The philanthropic work of the Steinway family endures today throughout Queens and New York City.

That same factory, which first opened in the early 1870s, continues to operate today. The historic factory has been producing the world's finest pianos, virtually uninterrupted, for more than 145 years. Today, the factory employs over 300 union craftspeople, and many more people in management, administrative and sales roles in New York and throughout America. Steinway & Sons is an American success story, integral not only to the history of the borough of Queens and New York City, but also to the cultural story of the United States of America. It is a jewel that elevates American craftsmanship and innovation throughout the world.

As a lifelong musician and a son of Queens, it is with great pride that I celebrate the 165th anniversary of the world's number one piano, New York's very own Steinway & Sons.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN PALLONE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and pride that I rise today to congratulate my brother, Long Branch Councilman John Pallone, on his selection as the Amerigo Vespucci Society Man of the Year. I joined the Amerigo Vespucci Society on March 3, 2018 at their 125th dinner gala to celebrate John and recognize his outstanding work.

Born and raised in Long Branch, New Jersey, John is a lifelong resident of the city and an active member of the community. Currently serving as Council President, John was first elected to the city council in 1990 and then ran successfully again for a council seat in 2010 where he has served ever since. In this capacity, John has made the safety and well-being of Long Branch residents a priority and continues to focus on the redevelopment of the city, serving as a board member of the Urban Enterprise Zone.

In addition to his work as a public servant, John is the Vice President of the Long Branch Free Public Library Board of Trustees, a member of the Amerigo Vespucci Society and a parishioner of Holy Trinity Church.

John is the owner of Video Life Productions, a successful video production company that he established in 1982. He and his wife Svetlana are the proud parents of John Thomas.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating John Pallone on his recognition as Man of the Year by the Amerigo Vespucci Society. He is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

SPRINGFIELD CLINIC LEADS ILLINOIS IN OPENNOTES

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to recognize the Springfield Clinic, one of the first multi-specialty clinics in downstate Illinois. With more than 400 physicians and advanced practitioners practicing in 80 medical specialties and sub-specialties, Springfield Clinic now proudly stands as one of Illinois' largest private multi-specialty clinics and serves nearly one million patients throughout the central Illinois region.

In 2010, as part of their "leading the way" initiative, all Springfield Clinic offices began working with the OpenNotes movement. This put them among the nation's leaders in integration of electronic health record technology, which enables clinicians to share their visit notes with patients through fully transparent medical records. This secure system encourages patients to become active participants in their health care by providing a convenient way to access and manage personal medical records, communicate directly with medical professionals, schedule appointments and prescriptions, receive email and text reminders for preventive care and upcoming appointments, and pay bills online.

This dynamic state-of-the-art system provides Springfield Clinic the necessary tools to expand patient services. However, we cannot hope to automate and streamline provider workflow unless more patients sign up for and participate in these portals. I'm proud to represent Springfield Clinic, which is on the forefront of this innovative approach to the doctor-patient relationship. Nineteen million patients are already taking advantage of their new ability to access medical information online through OpenNotes, and my hope is that this number only continues to grow both in my district and across the country. More and more medical professionals and citizens should take

advantage of this patient-centered program so we can focus on what matters most—patient care.

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING CASEY JESZENKA

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Casey Jeszenka for his service to the people of Guam. Casey made Guam his home and joined the Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center in 2000. He has served as the director of the Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center Network for the last 16 years and will retire on March 2, 2018. Throughout his tenure, Casey has been an invaluable advocate and resource for many in our community in Guam to develop successful businesses and contribute to the local economy. I have worked closely with Casey throughout my time in Congress, and he has been a trusted advisor in the development of small businesses on Guam.

As the Network Director, Casey has been responsible for the overall management and implementation of the service functions associated with the University of Guam Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center Network (PISBDCN). His leadership at PISBDCN was instrumental to assisting clients and providing information, resources, education, technical support, and professional counseling and consultant services to local entrepreneurs and business owners. Casey worked closely with both the public and private sectors and a system of island sub-centers, overseeing their organization, program implementation, management and evaluation processes in order to further develop and enhance a comprehensive network on Guam and throughout Micronesia. Casey nurtured partnerships between PISBDCN, and the Guam Small Business Administration (SBA), the Guam Economic Development Authority (GEDA), and the University of Guam College of Agriculture's Extension Programs to make the programs of the Pacific Islands Small Business Development successful.

Prior to serving as Network Director, Casey served as Special Projects Director and Counselor from 2000 to 2002 for the Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center. Casey was responsible for planning, directing and organizing the establishment and operations of new and established Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Subcenter and Satellite programs throughout the network. He provided training to new SBDC Subcenter and Satellite personnel in accordance with the PISBDCN Standard Operating Procedures. Casey, additionally directed and supervised the SBDC Subcenter and Satellite counseling services and training programs, and trained SBDC personnel to handle these duties. He assisted in the development and tracking of goals in line with the PISBDCN mission, strategic plan and directives. also provided a comprehensive range of small business based assistance to established and prospective small business owners and other qualified clients including one-to-one client counseling. Casey imple-

mented SBDC orientation and training sessions and developed and implemented new workshops.

In addition to his roles with the Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center, Casey has also been actively involved as a member of the Pacific Asia Travel Association Micronesia Chapter's Executive Committee, a member of the Pacific Asia Travel Association Micronesia Chapter's Education Committee, as secretary of the Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center Network's Advisory Board, and as a member of the Guam Chamber of Commerce Small Business Committee.

Casey has worked diligently throughout his 18 years of service on Guam. He will be missed as a valued member of the Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center, but through his leadership and guidance, he has positioned the PISBDCN to continue its exceptional service to the people of Guam. I extend my sincere congratulations to Casey, and I join the people of Guam in commending him for his service and thanking him for his many contributions to our island community.

RECOGNIZING THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER AND STAFF FOR SURPASSING 20 MILLION VISITORS TO THE CVC

HON. GREGG HARPER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the staff of the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center (CVC) and recognize the CVC for surpassing its twenty-millionth visitor.

On December 2, 2008, the CVC opened to the public for the first time. By May of the following year, the CVC welcomed its one millionth visitor. During this past December, after just nine years in operation, the CVC welcomed its 20 millionth visitor.

Since its opening, the CVC has been guided by four primary goals to better serve the U.S. Congress: Security, Visitor Education, Visitor Comfort, and Functional Improvements to the U.S. Capitol.

Today, which traditionally marks the beginning of the Spring tourist season, the CVC provides a secure public environment to welcome and assist a large number of visitors. The CVC creates and presents informative programs on the workings and history of the Congress, the legislative process, and the art and architecture of the Capitol to millions of visitors each year, all while providing the amenities, comfort, convenience, and accessibility for visitors appropriate to one of the nation's most visited tourist destinations.

The CVC team welcomed 2.4 million visitors in 2017, the highest single-year total since the facility opened. Even more remarkable is that almost half of those visitors came during the Spring season between the months of March and June. As we are about to begin a new Spring tourist season, I am reminded of just how important the CVC is as we welcome our constituents to Washington, D.C.

Behind the scenes, the CVC provides modern, efficient facilities for the operational functions of the Capitol, as well as provides important work space for both the House and Senate, and improves connectivity between the Capitol and the Library of Congress.

While the CVC does provide world-class tours for over two million visitors each year, its service to Congress doesn't stop there. The CVC team has also supported more than 7,000 congressional events in CVC meeting spaces as well as welcoming and assisting guests at Congressional Gold Medal Ceremonies, commemoration ceremonies, annual Memorial Day and Capitol Fourth Concerts, and presidential inaugurations, among many other events.

Also, in support of Congress, the CVC team has developed training programs for congressional staff to learn about the history of the Capitol and Congress and the artwork that represents their story. Critical safety and emergency evacuation procedures are key elements of this program. To date, more than 31,000 interns and other staff have participated in the training program, enhancing their ability to deliver high-quality tours to constituents.

The majority of visitors to the CVC are our constituents, and based on independent surveys, 93 percent of visitors to the Capitol said their expectations were met or exceeded and that they were likely to recommend taking a Capitol Tour to their friends. These numbers reflect the passion and knowledge the Visitor Center's team brings to the Capitol each day, as well as their commitment to inform, involve, and inspire every visitor.

The CVC will celebrate its 10th anniversary on December 2, 2018. As the CVC embarks on its second decade serving as the front door to the Capitol and the Congress, I wish to recognize the hard-working CVC staff that remain committed to providing world-class services to our visitors, our constituents, and those of us who work in the Capitol each day.

TERRY VAUGHN, A HURRICANE
HARVEY HERO

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute another of our Harvey Heroes. I want to recognize Terry Vaughn, district manager of pharmacy and retail operations for 14 Walgreens stores in the Lake Houston area where I live. As Hurricane Harvey hovered over the Houston area dropping up to 50 inches of rain in some parts, Terry and his Walgreens partners were watching and waiting like most Houstonians. In the wake of the storm, all but one of Terry's stores closed due to damage or impassable roads. The only store the Walgreens team could get to was the location on West Lake Houston Parkway and FM 1960—in my neighborhood of Atascocita.

Terry lives one mile from the store. As the San Jacinto River rose and Lake Houston came out of its banks, a fellow team member's house was flooding so quickly she and her family of six had nowhere to turn. They walked through water to the Atascocita Walgreens where Terry and other volunteers met them with kayaks and transported them to Terry's home where Mitzi, his bride of 19 years, and their two boys provided the food and shelter the family so badly needed.

The forecasts said this storm would be here for days. Since he could get to the store, Terry

decided to open up the Atascocita location. Terry, three other managers, and Walgreens team members who couldn't make it to their own stores but still wanted to help, kept our Atascocita location's doors open through shortages of power and shortages of patience. The one thing they didn't have a shortage of was dedication to their community. Terry would wake up each morning, check the water level of Lake Houston to make sure it wasn't coming closer into his own home, then report for service.

Mr. Speaker, during Harvey, Terry's store was the only continually operating Walgreens this side of the Gulf of Mexico. He partnered with the City of Humble to deliver life-saving medications to evacuees at the city's emergency shelter at the Humble Civic Center. He immunized 40 local first responders to protect them from the flood borne diseases of tetanus and Hepatitis A; then took his immunizations on the road setting up first responder clinics at fire and police stations. Terry and his team immunized more than 1,000 people in two days.

Virtually all Lake Houston-area grocery stores were closed due to the flooding. The stores were filled with water. Distribution trucks could not get to the area. As the storm damage continued, Terry led a team of Walgreens managers who with their own trucks (Texas trucks with plenty of lift to get through those waters, Mr. Speaker) went to 13 other Walgreens and gathered household supplies, diapers, baby formula, and medical supplies to distribute at the operational Atascocita location.

For days Terry kept answering the calls and kept serving. One of those calls was from United Airlines who had personnel and displaced passengers stuck at George Bush Intercontinental Airport. Terry and his Walgreens team fulfilled an order of more than \$30,000 in supplies and delivered it straight to the tarmac. Was there a bright spot in all this for Terry? He told me, "Seeing people come together and my team working non-stop without breaks—with their own families going through the worst times—we showed up to help our community and put our own issues aside."

Mr. Speaker, those who know Terry know he has a servant's heart. He is active with the Lake Houston Chamber of Commerce, Boy Scouts, and Humble Area Assistance Ministries. Terry started with Walgreens as a cashier more than 21 years ago. He has performed every job in the store and worked his way up to be a district manager. On August 18 as Hurricane Harvey ravaged and flooded our area, he was called upon to once again do every job. And he did. And he makes us proud to be Texans.

IN MEMORY OF WALTER J.
BUCKERT, JR.

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, sadly, Walter J. Buckert, Jr., a proven champion for military service-members and their devoted families, passed away last week. He will always be cherished for championing benefits for our military and providing extraor-

dinary jobs for military family members. The Office of the Second Congressional District of South Carolina was fortunate to have as staff members two of his talented granddaughters, Elizabeth Grayson and Katherine Grayson, who he influenced for extraordinary service on behalf of constituents. I include in the RECORD the following thoughtful obituary:

Walter J. Buckert, Jr., age 85, passed away peacefully on Sunday, February 25th at Inova Fairfax Hospital in Virginia.

Walter was born on February 24th, 1933, in Rochester NY, to Walt and Marge Buckert. In 1955, Walter graduated from Georgetown University with a BA in Business. He joined the General Electric Company's Corporate Financial Program where he was assigned to the Federal Government Department of Electronics Division. From there, he was promoted to General Electric's Lighting Business Group, its highest division by revenue at that time. He took on increasing roles of responsibility with each transfer accepting positions in New York, Cleveland and Richmond. His final assignment from General Electric, before his retirement in 1995, was as Manager of U.S. Government Sales and Marketing for all lighting products for government use and resale to military personnel. In that role, Walter grew government sales and created a division highly valued to this day. After 47 years with General Electric, Walter joined Webco General Partnership in 1996 as Director of Government and Industry Affairs. A strong advocate for military personnel and their families, he was awarded the American Logistics Association Lifetime Achievement Award, The Department of the Army Outstanding Civil Service medal for his service, and The Exchange.

Walter is survived by his beautiful wife of 55 years, Mary Sutton Buckert and loving daughter, Laurie Grayson; son-in-law, Bill Grayson; and granddaughters Katherine, Elizabeth, and Caroline Grayson who fondly referred to their grandfather by his childhood nickname, Buddy. He is also survived by his older sister, Joanne McDermott, and too many nieces and nephews on both sides of the family to count but to whom he held much love and respect.

Walter will be remembered for his loyalty, hard work, and dedication to others. He was a true blooded, American patriot who never took his freedom for granted. He was a humble, stoic man, with strong convictions and beliefs, but underneath it all was a childlike spirit. Walter was a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, uncle, brother and friend, he will forever be missed.

IN HONOR OF CHIC AND BILLIE
RAWLINGS' 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Chic and Billie Rawlings on the celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

This significant benchmark is a symbol of their commitment to each other and to their family. I am happy to join their friends and family in extending my best to them on this special occasion.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to Chic and Billie on the celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

I wish them the best today and for many more blessed years to come.

ON THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE SUMGAIT POGROMS

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the pogrom against the Armenian residents of the town of Sumgait, Azerbaijan. On February 27, 1988, and for three days following, Azerbaijani mobs assaulted and killed Armenians. The violence left hundreds of Armenian civilians dead and injured, women and girls were raped, and some victims were burned alive. Thousands were forced to flee their homes, leaving behind their belonging.

The pogroms came about as the result of years of vicious, racist anti-Armenian propaganda by Azerbaijani authorities, dehumanizing Armenians. Azerbaijan authorities made little effort to punish those responsible, instead attempting to cover up the atrocities in Sumgait to this day, and denying the government role in instigating the killings. Indeed, even today, racist propaganda against Armenia and Armenians is prevalent in Azerbaijan.

The assault on ethnic Armenian civilians in Sumgait helped touch off what would become a direct conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan which took thousands of lives and displaced millions more. The anniversary of Sumgait is a reminder of the consequences when aggression and hatred grow unchecked.

Mr. Speaker, this April we will mark the 103rd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, an event the Turkish government, Azerbaijan's closest ally, goes to great lengths to deny. We must not let such crimes against humanity go unrecognized, whether they occurred yesterday or 30 years ago or 100 years ago. Today, let us pause to remember the victims of the atrocities of the Sumgait pogroms. Mr. Speaker, it is our moral obligation to condemn crimes of hatred and to remember the victims, in hope that history will not be repeated.

IN RECOGNITION OF RODNEY T.
MITCHELL

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rodney Mitchell, associate dean of students at the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas. He tragically passed away February 26, following almost 30 years of affiliation to UNT first as a student and then as a cherished staff member.

Rodney was a UNT alumnus who earned his BA in Applied Arts and Sciences in 1996 and his MPA in 1999. A proud member of the Mean Green family, he was a life member of the UNT Alumni Association, a Mean Green football season ticket holder, and supporter of various student programs with his gifts to the university. The Residence Hall Association created the "Rodney T. Mitchell Advocate of

the Year" award in honor of his service and leadership as the College Inn Hall Director and Residence Hall Association President.

After working for the City of Denton as the Assistant to the City Manager, he returned to UNT as a member of staff in 2001. He served as assistant director for academic development—Upward Bound program and as director of TRIO Upward Bound and student support services before becoming associate dean of students in 2013.

Throughout his time at UNT, it was clear that Rodney had an enormous heart for students. He assisted students through the SOS (Seeking Options and Solutions) Program, opened and grew the UNT Food Pantry, and oversaw various intervention programs to support student success. He made a significant impact as a part of the University and community he loved, touching thousands of lives as a generous, caring servant.

It was at UNT that Rodney met his wife Melanie. Together they served for many years at the Denton Church of Christ at Welch Street on the UNT campus and at the Singing Oaks Church of Christ.

Rodney was a kind and generous man, and the world is a lesser place with his departure. His servant heart is a shining example as we seek to treat others as we want to be treated. He is survived by Melanie, a current UNT employee, and his 13-year-old son, Hayden.

On behalf of the 26th Congressional District, I wish to extend condolences to Melanie, Hayden, Rodney's mother Joyce Mitchell, his father Marvel Mitchell, his brother Zachary Mackey and many other family members, as well as the entire UNT and Denton communities. Rodney will be remembered and loved forever by his family and a multitude of friends. I am grateful for the legacy he has left for the UNT and our North Texas community.

IN HONOR OF DAVID AND LINDALU
BARBER'S 50TH WEDDING ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 50th wedding anniversary of David and Lindalu Barber on February 3, 2018.

David Barber and Lindalu Thompson were married on February 3, 1968 at Wilson Chapel United Methodist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. They are both life-long residents of Jefferson County.

David spent his professional career as a prosecutor, serving Jefferson County as a Deputy District Attorney, and as District Attorney, for a total of 35 years. He concurrently served in the United States Army Reserve for a period of 37 years, retiring in 2005 as a Colonel.

Lindalu's chief occupation was that of mother and homemaker to their three children: Joel Barber (Mindy), Julie Barber Hanner and Jenny Lou Barber Grindle (Chris). They are grandparents to Drew Grindle, Catherine Grindle, John Lewis Barber, Lawson Barber, Fischer Barber, Mary Evelyn Grindle and David Grindle.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the 50th wedding anniversary of David and Lindalu Barber.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY OF RONNIE AND
RHONDA BROOKS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 5, 2018

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 50th wedding anniversary of Ronnie and Rhonda Brooks on August 10, 2018.

Ronnie and Rhonda met on June 9, 1968 and were married that same year.

Ronnie graduated from MacArthur Technical College and joined the Navy. He was assigned to a brand new Naval Boot Camp Facility in Orlando, Florida.

Rhonda Fore Brooks graduated in May of 1968 from Kinston High School in Kinston, Alabama. She had just moved back from Tacoma, Washington, where her father was stationed in the Air Force.

Their first child, Scotty Zane, was born in the Great Lakes Naval Training Center on Mother's Day, May 11, 1969. Their second child, Sandra Elaine, was born on February 1, 1972, in Charleston, South Carolina, where Ronnie was stationed on the USS Howard W. Gilmore AS-16.

Ronnie graduated from Troy State University in 1977 and the University of Alabama in 1982. He taught and was principal at Coosa Christian Elementary School in Gadsden, Alabama. Rhonda went to MacArthur Technical School.

In 1984, they moved to Piedmont, Alabama. Ronnie was Human Resources Manager for SCT Yarns, Inc. and Rhonda went to Jacksonville State University. They again moved to Opp, in 1991 and Ronnie became Personnel and Safety Manager with Opp & Micolas Mills and Rhonda owned the Opp Christian Bookstore for the next 10 years before moving to Phenix City, Alabama, as part of Ronnie's job promotion.

Their children are married now: Scotty married Tammy Bryan and Sandie married James Manscill, Jr. They have four grandchildren: Justin Brooks (married to Anna Frederick), Hannah Brooks, Erika Manscill and Danielle Manscill.

Being retired now, Ronnie and Rhonda are still active in the community, active members of Epworth United Methodist Church and members of the International Gideon's Association in the Russell County Camp. They both give the success of their marriage and family to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the 50th wedding anniversary of Ronnie and Rhonda Brooks.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

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

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, March 6, 2018 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 7

Time to be announced

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider the nominations of John F. Ring, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board, Frank T. Brogan, of Pennsylvania, to be Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, and Mark Schneider, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of the Institute of Education Science, both of the Department of Education, Marco M. Rajkovich, Jr., of Kentucky, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, and other pending nominations.

TBA

9:30 a.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold hearings to examine security clearance reform.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To continue a business meeting to consider H.R. 2825, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of John B. Nalbandian, of Kentucky, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, Kari A. Dooley, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut, Dominic W. Lanza, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, Jill Aiko Otake, to be United States District Judge for the District of Hawaii, and Joseph H. Hunt, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice.

SD-226

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

SD-G50

10:30 a.m.

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine Department of Defense audit and business operations reform at the Pentagon.

SD-608

1 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine stopping senior scams.

SD-562

2 p.m.

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the Economic Report of the President.

SH-216

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Joseph E. Macmanus, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Colombia, Marie Royce, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary (Educational and Cultural Affairs), Robin S. Bernstein, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Dominican Republic, and Edward Charles Prado, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Argentine Republic, all of the Department of State.

SD-419

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Oversight, Agency Action, Federal Rights and Federal Courts

To hold hearings to examine small business bankruptcy, focusing on assessing the system.

SD-226

MARCH 8

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine United States European Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider S. 79, to provide for the establishment of a pilot program to identify security vulnerabilities of certain entities in the energy sector, S. 186, to amend the Federal Power Act to provide that any inaction by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission that allows a rate change to go into effect shall be treated as an order by the Commission for purposes of rehearing and court review, S. 1059, to extend the authorization of the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978 relating to the disposal site in Mesa County, Colorado, S. 1160, to include Livingston County, the city of Jonesboro in Union County, and the city of Freeport in Stephenson County, Illinois, to the Lincoln National Heritage Area, S. 1181, to direct the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture to expedite access to certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of each Secretary for good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions, S. 1260 and H.R. 2615, bills to authorize the exchange of certain land located in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Jackson County, Mississippi, between the National Park Service and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, S. 1335 and H.R. 2888, bills to establish the Ste. Genevieve National Historic Site in the State of Missouri, S. 1336, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to reauthorize hydroelectric production incentives and hydroelectric efficiency improvement incentives, S. 1337, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to make certain strategic energy infrastructure projects eligible for certain loan guarantees, S. 1446 and H.R. 1135, bills to reauthorize the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Historic Preservation program, S. 1457, to amend the Energy

Policy Act of 2005 to direct the Secretary of Energy to carry out demonstration projects relating to advanced nuclear reactor technologies to support domestic energy needs, S. 1563, to authorize the Office of Fossil Energy to develop advanced separation technologies for the extraction and recovery of rare earth elements and minerals from coal and coal byproducts, S. 1602, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area, S. 1692, to authorize the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, S. 1799, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to facilitate the commercialization of energy and related technologies developed at Department of Energy facilities with promising commercial potential, S. 1860 and H.R. 1109, bills to amend section 203 of the Federal Power Act, S. 1981, to amend the Natural Gas Act to expedite approval of exports of small volumes of natural gas, S. 2213 and H.R. 4300, bills to authorize Pacific Historic Parks to establish a commemorative display to honor members of the United States Armed Forces who served in the Pacific Theater of World War II, S. 2325, to incentivize the hiring of United States workers in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, H.R. 589, to establish Department of Energy policy for science and energy research and development programs, and reform National Laboratory management and technology transfer programs, H.R. 648, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to amend the Definite Plan Report for the Seedskadee Project to enable the use of the active capacity of the Fontenelle Reservoir, H.R. 1397, to authorize, direct, facilitate, and expedite the transfer of administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal land, H.R. 1404, to provide for the conveyance of certain land inholdings owned by the United States to the Tucson Unified School District and to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona, and H.R. 1500, to redesignate the small triangular property located in Washington, DC, and designated by the National Park Service as reservation 302 as "Robert Emmet Park".

SD-366

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Management, and Regulatory Oversight

To hold hearings to examine S. 2421, to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to provide an exemption from certain notice requirements and penalties for releases of hazardous substances from animal waste at farms.

SD-406

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the opioid crisis, focusing on leadership and innovation in the states.

SD-430

2 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing regarding certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Personnel

To hold hearings to examine domestic violence and child abuse in the military.

SD-G50

MARCH 14

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine Department of Energy atomic energy defense activities and programs in review of the

Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-232A

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine opioids in Indian country.

SD-628

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1325–S1342

Measures Introduced: Nine bills were introduced, as follows: S. 2490–2498. **Page S1338**

Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, March 6, 2018, Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2155, to promote economic growth, provide tailored regulatory relief, and enhance consumer protections, with the time until the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill equally divided between the two Leaders, or their designees; that following disposition of the nomination of Terry A. Doughty, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana, Senate continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill; and that all time during recess, adjournment, morning business, Leader remarks, and consideration of the nomination of Terry A. Doughty, count post-cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S1341**

Doughty Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, and the order of Thursday, March 1, 2018, the vote on confirmation of the nomination of Terry A. Doughty, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana, occur following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2155, to promote economic growth, pro-

vide tailored regulatory relief, and enhance consumer protections. **Page S1328**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By a unanimous vote of 95 yeas (Vote No. EX. 46), Karen Gren Scholer, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas. **Pages S1326–33, S1342**

By 85 yeas to 11 nays (Vote No. EX. 47), Tilman Eugene Self III, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia. **Pages S1333, S1342**

Jeffrey Gerrish, of Maryland, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and Industrial Competitiveness), with the rank of Ambassador. **Pages S1335, S1342**

Messages from the House: **Page S1338**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1338–40**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S1340–41**

Additional Statements: **Pages S1337–38**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—47) **Page S1333**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 7:17 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, March 6, 2018. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1341.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 16 public bills, H.R. 5155–5170 and 2 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 111 and H. Res. 763 were introduced.

Pages H1372–73

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H1373–74

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 4242, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a permanent VA Care in the Community Program, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–585); and

H. Res. 762, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1119) to establish the bases by which the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall issue, implement, and enforce certain emission limitations and allocations for existing electric utility steam generating units that convert coal refuse into energy, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1917) to allow for judicial review of any final rule addressing national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants for brick and structural clay products or for clay ceramics manufacturing before requiring compliance with such rule (H. Rept. 115–586).

Page H1372

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Weber (TX) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H1345

Recess: The House recessed at 12:03 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m.

Page H1345

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Rev. Brian Chrzastek, O.P., Dominican House of Studies, Washington, DC.

Pages H1345–46

Recess: The House recessed at 2:09 p.m. and reconvened at 5 p.m.

Page H1347

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 901 N. Francisco Avenue, Mission, Texas, as the “Mission Veterans Post Office Building”: H.R. 1209, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 901 N. Francisco Avenue, Mission, Texas, as the “Mission Veterans Post Office Building”;

Pages H1347–48

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13683 James Madison Highway in Palmyra, Virginia, as the “U.S. Navy Seaman Dakota Kyle Rigsby Post Office”: H.R. 3183, to designate the facility of the United States

Postal Service located at 13683 James Madison Highway in Palmyra, Virginia, as the “U.S. Navy Seaman Dakota Kyle Rigsby Post Office”, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ ye-a-and-nay vote of 389 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 92;

Pages H1352–53, H1353–54

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 99 Macombs Place in New York, New York, as the “Tuskegee Airman Post Office Building”: H.R. 4406, amended, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 99 Macombs Place in New York, New York, as the “Tuskegee Airman Post Office Building”, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ ye-a-and-nay vote of 387 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 93;

Pages H1348–49, H1354

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 99 Macombs Place in New York, New York, as the ‘Tuskegee Airmen Post Office Building’.”;

Page H1354

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1900 Corporate Drive in Birmingham, Alabama, as the “Lance Corporal Thomas E. Rivers, Jr. Post Office Building”: H.R. 4646, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1900 Corporate Drive in Birmingham, Alabama, as the “Lance Corporal Thomas E. Rivers, Jr. Post Office Building”;

Pages H1349–50

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 515 Hope Street in Bristol, Rhode Island, as the “First Sergeant P. Andrew McKenna Jr. Post Office”: H.R. 4685, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 515 Hope Street in Bristol, Rhode Island, as the “First Sergeant P. Andrew McKenna Jr. Post Office”;

Pages H1350–51

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 West Pike Street in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, as the “Police Officer Scott Bashioum Post Office Building”: S. 831, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 West Pike Street in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, as the “Police Officer Scott Bashioum Post Office Building”; and

Pages H1351–52

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 514 Broadway Street in Pekin, Illinois, as the “Lance Corporal Jordan S. Basteau Post Office”: H.R. 2673, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at

514 Broadway Street in Pekin, Illinois, as the “Lance Corporal Jordan S. Bastean Post Office”. **Page H1348**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:48 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H1353**

Senate Referrals: S. 1621 was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce. S. 2248 was held at the desk. S. 2372 was referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Natural Resources. **Page H1370**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on pages H1346–47.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1353–54 and H1354. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Committee Meetings

BLOCKING REGULATORY INTERFERENCE FROM CLOSING KILNS ACT OF 2017; SATISFYING ENERGY NEEDS AND SAVING THE ENVIRONMENT ACT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 1917, the “Blocking Regulatory Interference from Closing Kilns Act of 2017”; and H.R. 1119, the “Satisfying Energy Needs and Saving the Environment Act”. The Committee granted, by record vote of 5–3, a closed rule for H.R. 1119. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce now printed in the bill 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 for the consideration of H.R. 1917 under a closed rule. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. 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 115–62 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. Testimony was heard from Representatives Shimkus and Tonko.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2018

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine worldwide threats; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC–217, following the open session, 9:30 a.m., SH–216.

Subcommittee on SeaPower, to hold hearings to examine Navy and Marine Corps aviation programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program, 2:30 p.m., SR–232A.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of James Reilly, of Colorado, to be Director of the United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine protecting e-commerce consumers from counterfeits, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of multiple veterans service organizations, 2 p.m., SD–G50.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing regarding certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of Labor, 10 a.m., 2358–C Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, budget hearing on the Department of the Treasury, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled “National Security Challenges and U.S. Military Activities in Africa”, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, hearing entitled “Navy Posture”, 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing entitled “Marine Corps Readiness Posture”, 3:30 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, hearing entitled “Strengthening Welfare to Work With Child Care”, 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled “Oversight of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the Committee's Views and Estimates on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2018, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice, hearing entitled "Examining Class Action Lawsuits Against Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID)", 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Exploring Innovative Solutions to Reduce the Department of the Interior's Maintenance Backlog", 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on the Interior, Energy, and Environment, hearing entitled "Examining the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers", 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled "The Future of U.S. Fusion Energy Research", 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Health and Technology; and Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy, and Trade, joint hearing entitled "Disconnected: Rural Broadband and the Business Case for Small Carriers", 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Examining the Administration's Infrastructure Proposal", 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Joint Meetings

Joint Hearing: Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of multiple veterans service organizations, 2 p.m., SD-G50.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of March 6 through March 9, 2018

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2155, Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at approximately 11 a.m.

Following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2155, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Terry A. Doughty, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana.

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

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Armed Services: March 6, to hold hearings to examine worldwide threats; with the possibility of a

closed session in SVC-217, following the open session, 9:30 a.m., SH-216.

March 6, Subcommittee on SeaPower, to hold hearings to examine Navy and Marine Corps aviation programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program, 2:30 p.m., SR-232A.

March 8, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine United States European Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

March 8, Subcommittee on Personnel, to hold hearings to examine domestic violence and child abuse in the military, 2:15 p.m., SD-G50.

Committee on the Budget: March 7, to hold hearings to examine Department of Defense audit and business operations reform at the Pentagon, 10:30 a.m., SD-608.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: March 6, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of James Reilly, of Colorado, to be Director of the United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, 10 a.m., SD-366.

March 8, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 79, to provide for the establishment of a pilot program to identify security vulnerabilities of certain entities in the energy sector, S. 186, to amend the Federal Power Act to provide that any inaction by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission that allows a rate change to go into effect shall be treated as an order by the Commission for purposes of rehearing and court review, S. 1059, to extend the authorization of the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978 relating to the disposal site in Mesa County, Colorado, S. 1160, to include Livingston County, the city of Jonesboro in Union County, and the city of Freeport in Stephenson County, Illinois, to the Lincoln National Heritage Area, S. 1181, to direct the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture to expedite access to certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of each Secretary for good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions, S. 1260 and H.R. 2615, bills to authorize the exchange of certain land located in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Jackson County, Mississippi, between the National Park Service and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, S. 1335 and H.R. 2888, bills to establish the Ste. Genevieve National Historic Site in the State of Missouri, S. 1336, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to reauthorize hydroelectric production incentives and hydroelectric efficiency improvement incentives, S. 1337, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to make certain strategic energy infrastructure projects eligible for certain loan guarantees, S. 1446 and H.R. 1135, bills to reauthorize the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Historic Preservation program, S. 1457, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to direct the Secretary of Energy to carry out demonstration projects relating to advanced nuclear reactor technologies to support domestic energy needs, S. 1563, to authorize the Office of Fossil Energy to develop advanced separation technologies for the extraction and recovery of rare earth elements and minerals from coal and coal byproducts, S. 1602, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of

designating certain land as the Finger Lakes National Heritage Area, S. 1692, to authorize the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, S. 1799, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to facilitate the commercialization of energy and related technologies developed at Department of Energy facilities with promising commercial potential, S. 1860 and H.R. 1109, bills to amend section 203 of the Federal Power Act, S. 1981, to amend the Natural Gas Act to expedite approval of exports of small volumes of natural gas, S. 2213 and H.R. 4300, bills to authorize Pacific Historic Parks to establish a commemorative display to honor members of the United States Armed Forces who served in the Pacific Theater of World War II, S. 2325, to incentivize the hiring of United States workers in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, H.R. 589, to establish Department of Energy policy for science and energy research and development programs, and reform National Laboratory management and technology transfer programs, H.R. 648, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to amend the Definite Plan Report for the Seedskadee Project to enable the use of the active capacity of the Fontenelle Reservoir, H.R. 1397, to authorize, direct, facilitate, and expedite the transfer of administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal land, H.R. 1404, to provide for the conveyance of certain land inholdings owned by the United States to the Tucson Unified School District and to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona, and H.R. 1500, to redesignate the small triangular property located in Washington, DC, and designated by the National Park Service as reservation 302 as "Robert Emmet Park", 10 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: March 8, Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Management, and Regulatory Oversight, to hold hearings to examine S. 2421, to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to provide an exemption from certain notice requirements and penalties for releases of hazardous substances from animal waste at farms, 10 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Finance: March 6, to hold hearings to examine protecting e-commerce consumers from counterfeits, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: March 7, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Joseph E. Macmanus, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Colombia, Marie Royce, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary (Educational and Cultural Affairs), Robin S. Bernstein, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Dominican Republic, and Edward Charles Prado, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Argentine Republic, all of the Department of State, 2:30 p.m., SD-419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: March 7, business meeting to consider the nominations of John F. Ring, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board, Frank T. Brogan, of Pennsylvania, to be Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, and Mark Schneider, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of the Institute of Education Science, both of the Department of

Education, Marco M. Rajkovich, Jr., of Kentucky, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, and other pending nominations, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

March 8, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the opioid crisis, focusing on leadership and innovation in the states, 10 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: March 7, to continue a business meeting to consider H.R. 2825, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Homeland Security, 10 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on the Judiciary: March 7, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of John B. Nalbandian, of Kentucky, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, Kari A. Dooley, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut, Dominic W. Lanza, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, Jill Aiko Otake, to be United States District Judge for the District of Hawaii, and Joseph H. Hunt, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD-226.

March 7, Subcommittee on Oversight, Agency Action, Federal Rights and Federal Courts, to hold hearings to examine small business bankruptcy, focusing on assessing the system, 2:30 p.m., SD-226.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: March 6, to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of multiple veterans service organizations, 2 p.m., SD-G50.

March 7, Full Committee, to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

Select Committee on Intelligence: March 6, to receive a closed briefing regarding certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

March 7, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine security clearance reform, 9:30 a.m., SD-106.

March 8, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing regarding certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SH-219.

Special Committee on Aging: March 7, to hold hearings to examine stopping senior scams, 1 p.m., SD-562.

House Committees

Committee on Appropriations, March 7, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 10 a.m., 2362-A Rayburn.

March 7, Subcommittee on Defense, budget hearing on the Navy and Marine Corps, 10 a.m., H-140 Capitol.

Committee on Armed Services, March 7, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Assessing Military Service Acquisition Reform", 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

March 7, Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces, hearing entitled "The F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Lightning II Program", 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

March 7, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing entitled "U.S. Strategic Forces Posture and the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Request", 3:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

March 8, Subcommittee on Readiness; and Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, joint hearing entitled “Mobility and Transportation Command Posture”, 9 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

March 8, Subcommittee On Military Personnel, hearing entitled “Arlington National Cemetery—Preserving the Promise”, 10:30 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, March 7, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Member’s Day hearing on oversight of the Congressional Budget Office”, 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, March 7, Subcommittee on Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection, hearing entitled “Review of Emerging Tech’s Impact on Retail Operations and Logistics”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

March 7, Subcommittee on Environment, hearing entitled “The Future of Transportation Fuels and Vehicles”, 10:15 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

March 8, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Examining U.S. Public Health Preparedness for and Response Efforts to Seasonal Influenza”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, March 7, Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance, hearing on H.R. 5059, the “State Insurance Regulation Preservation Act”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

March 7, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, hearing entitled “Legislative Proposals to Reform the Current Data Security and Breach Notification Regulatory Regime”, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, March 7, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, hearing entitled “China in Africa: The New Colonialism?”, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, March 7, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4176, the “Air Cargo Security Improvement Act of 2017”; H.R. 4227, the “Vehicular Terrorism Prevention Act of 2017”; H.R. 4467, the “Strengthening Aviation Security Act of 2017”; H.R. 4627, the “Shielding Public Spaces from Vehicular Terrorism Act”; H.R. 5074, the “DHS Cyber Incident Response Teams Act”; H.R. 5079, the “DHS Field Engagement Accountability Act”; H.R. 5081, the “Surface Transportation Security and Technology Accountability Act of 2018”; H.R. 5089, the “Strengthening Local Transportation Security Capabilities Act of 2018”; H.R. 5094, the “Enhancing Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative Act”; H.R. 5099, the “Enhancing DHS’ Fusion Center Technical Assistance Program”; and H.R. 5131, the “Surface Transportation Security Improvement Act of 2018”, 10:30 a.m., HVC–210.

March 7, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection; and Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency, joint hearing entitled “Examining DHS’ Efforts to Strengthen its Cybersecurity Workforce”, 2 p.m., HVC–210.

Committee on House Administration, March 7, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Management of the Government Publishing Office”, 10:30 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

March 7, Full Committee, business meeting on Committee Resolution 115–9, to allocate funds from the Committee reserve fund, 1 p.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, March 7, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 2152, the “Citizens’ Right to Know Act of 2017”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, March 7, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 520, the “National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act”; H.R. 4731, to extend the retained use estate for the Caneel Bay resort in St. John, United States Virgin Islands, and for other purposes; and H.R. 5133, the “Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act Reauthorization of 2018”, 10:15 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, March 7, Subcommittee on Information Technology, hearing entitled “Game Changers: Artificial Intelligence Part II, Artificial Intelligence and the Federal Government”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, March 7, Subcommittee on Space, hearing entitled “An Overview of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Budget for Fiscal Year 2019”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, March 7, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Regulatory Reform and Rollback: The Effects on Small Businesses”, 2 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, March 7, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, hearing entitled “Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Long-Term Funding for Highways and Transit Programs”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

March 7, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing entitled “Implementation of Coast Guard Programs”, 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, March 7, Subcommittee on Social Security, hearing entitled “Lacking a Leader: Challenges Facing the SSA after over 5 Years of Acting Commissioners”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: March 7, to hold hearings to examine the Economic Report of the President, 2 p.m., SH–216.

Joint Hearing: March 6, Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of multiple veterans service organizations, 2 p.m., SD–G50.

March 7, Full Committee, to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, March 6

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2155, Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at approximately 11 a.m.

Following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2155, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Terry A. Doughty, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana.

(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, March 6

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of H.R. 4607—Comprehensive Regulatory Review Act. Consideration of measures under suspension of the Rules.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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