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No. 92

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

June 5, 2018.

I hereby appoint the Honorable LARRY BUCSHON 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.

WE MUST TAKE ACTION TO PRESERVE AMERICA'S CORAL REEFS

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to reintroduce the Coral Reef Conservation Reauthorization Act. This bipartisan, comprehensive bill builds on legislation that I have sponsored in the House since 2009 to reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000.

I want to thank each of my 13 original cosponsors for their support: Rep-

resentatives SOTO, WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, HASTINGS, CRIST, CASTOR, HANABUSA, GABBARD, RADEWAGEN, GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, RUTHERFORD, SABLÁN, PLASKETT, AND MAST.

Our bill for this 115th Congress makes amendments to update and strengthen the 2000 law and reflects coral reef conservation work governmentwide.

Coral reefs are God-given natural infrastructure that provide real, tangible benefits to our coastal and island communities, as well as the Nation at large.

Healthy, resilient coral reefs safeguard against extreme weather, shoreline erosion, and coastal flooding and serve as natural breakwaters for maritime ports and harbors of refuge. Without the reefs to absorb the blunt force of wave action, many island and coastal communities would simply wash away.

Coral reefs also support countless American tourism jobs and valuable fisheries across the United States. According to the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, coral reefs support upwards of 12 percent of global fisheries and an estimated 25 percent of all known fish species.

In addition, coral reefs are the world's greatest source of biodiversity, covering less than 1 percent of the ocean floor but home to some 25 percent of all known marine species. U.S. territorial waters in the Pacific support the majority of our Nation's shallow water corals.

Guam, my home, sits adjacent to the western Pacific Ocean's Coral Triangle, one of the most biologically diverse and important marine ecosystems on the planet, and yet the planet's coral reefs are in crisis. 2017 marked a prolonged, unprecedented global coral bleaching event. Guam and the western Pacific, long home to some of the most well-preserved reefs in the world, were impacted severely.

Ocean acidification, warming sea temperatures, coastal pollution, invasive species, and other stressors linked to human activity and global climate change threaten to wipe out these incredibly productive ecosystems. These threats have necessitated special protections and listing under the Endangered Species Act for 25 coral species, to date.

The Coral Reef Conservation Reauthorization Act addresses these challenges head-on, with concrete Federal actions and policy changes that will make a difference by:

First, strengthening the Federal response to coral reef emergencies, including vessel groundings, natural disasters, harmful algae blooms, and unexploded ordnance underwater;

Second, minimizing damage to coral reefs from invasive or nuisance species, vessel impacts, marine debris, and derelict fishing gear;

Third, directing new Federal grant making for local coral reef conservation projects;

Fourth, recognizing the importance of coral reef fisheries and the expertise of local fishery and wildlife management agencies;

Fifth, developing the first-ever national guidelines for environmentally responsible artificial reefs; and

Last, engaging our Nation's marine laboratories, aquariums, Sea Grant colleges, and coral reef institutions in federally funded research on coral biodiversity, propagation, and resiliency.

In particular, our bipartisan bill provides congressional authorization for the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, codifying Executive Order 13089.

Since 1998, Mr. Speaker, the Coral Reef Task Force has coordinated Federal and local actions to protect coral reefs nationwide. Our bill preserves full voting membership on the task force for the Governors of all five U.S. territories and the States of Florida and Hawaii.

□ 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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H4741

The Coral Reef Conservation Reauthorization Act also authorizes the U.S. Department of the Interior to take action to conserve our coral reefs. Many of our most spectacular coral resources lie within national parks, national wildlife refuges, and marine national monuments.

Congress needs to take action to protect our Nation's irreplaceable coral reef resources, and that starts with reauthorizing the Coral Reef Conservation Act. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members of our House to join us in cosponsoring the Coral Reef Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2018, and I look forward to working with our House and Senate colleagues to advance this important legislation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BISHOP T.F. TENNEY

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of the Reverend T.F. Tenney, who died last week after dedicating more than 65 years of his life to the ministry through the United Pentecostal Church.

Bishop Tenney began preaching at the young age of 16. He and his wife, Thetus, were elected to the pastorate when they were just 19 and 18 years old, respectively, to lead a newly formed church in Monroe, Louisiana.

It was in Monroe where Bishop Tenney cultivated his leadership skills that would serve him throughout his career as he would go on to lead ministries directed toward youth, foreign missions, and the greater Pentecostal church as a whole throughout Louisiana.

Bishop Tenney will be remembered as a man who took new ideas and turned them into action. That enthusiasm made him a perfect fit for youth ministry, and he served for 6 years as the youth president of the Louisiana District United Pentecostal Church and 9 years as the international youth president.

In 1970, Bishop Tenney relocated to the UPC headquarters in Missouri to serve as the UPC's foreign missions director, a position that allowed him to share his belief in Christ with the rest of the world.

Bishop Tenney returned home to Louisiana to pastor a church in DeRidder. Later, he was elected as the Louisiana district director of the United Pentecostal Church, where he oversaw about 300 churches and 800 other ministers. He served in that post for 27 years before retiring to become bishop emeritus of the Louisiana district.

I am proud that Bishop Tenney called Louisiana and the Fifth Congressional District his home, though we know now that he is in his true home with the Father.

He was a true man of God, who touched the lives of countless people

both at home and around the globe. He published a dozen books, created thousands of YouTube videos, and had a Twitter following of more than 44,000 people, all signs of the incredible legacy of the Christian devotion that he left behind.

Bishop Tenney will be greatly missed, and Dianne and I will keep him and his family in our prayers.

HIGHLIGHTING NEW JOBS AND HIGHER WAGES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, this month, the Federal Reserve estimated GDP will hit 4.8 percent in the second quarter of 2018. Under the former administration, GDP never hit even 3 percent.

Thanks to tax reform and regulatory relief passed by this unified Republican government, Americans are experiencing economic expansion after 8 years of stagnation. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics:

One million jobs have been created since the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was enacted—223,000 were added last month;

In May, average hourly earnings increased by 2.7 percent; and

Unemployment is at its lowest since 2000.

The Conference Board also reports consumer confidence is at a 17-year high.

Democrats apparently haven't learned the key to economic progress, promising to raise taxes if given the chance. However, tax cuts and repeal of onerous Obama-era regulations have been pivotal for our economy. Now, nearly every measure of success is in our favor.

THE PROSPER ACT IS GOOD FOR OUR COUNTRY

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk a little bit today about the PROSPER Act and share some articles that have been published that help explain why the PROSPER Act is so good for our country, so good for students, and needs to be passed.

The first article is an article in Forbes by Preston Cooper, May 23, 2018.

Mr. Speaker, I include the entire article in the RECORD.

[From Forbes, May 23, 2018]

WHAT BETSY DEVOS SHOULD HAVE SAID ABOUT THE PROSPER ACT

(By Preston Cooper)

Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos testified before the House Committee on Education and Workforce on Tuesday. Representative Bobby Scott, the Democratic ranking member on the committee, asked DeVos about his concerns with the PROSPER Act, House Republicans' bill to reform the federal role in higher education. DeVos' answer could have been better. Here's how the exchange between the two proceeded:

Rep. Scott: Madam Secretary, the PROSPER Act provides for a \$15 billion cut in student aid, is that right?

Secretary DeVos: I've heard that opined. I'm not sure I agree with that, but . . .

Scott: Do you have another number?

DeVos: Pardon me?

Scott: Do you have another number?

DeVos: It's an approach to giving students much more flexibility in pursuing their higher education.

Scott: \$15 billion cut. Do you have another number?

DeVos: I have heard that opined, that that is the case. I said I don't necessarily share that perspective.

Here's a better answer that DeVos could have given to Scott's question. (The below exchange, in case it's not clear, is entirely fictional.)

Rep. Scott: Madam Secretary, the PROSPER Act provides for a \$15 billion cut in student aid, is that right?

Secretary DeVos: That's not quite accurate, Congressman, but it's a common misconception. The Congressional Budget Office score of the PROSPER Act did estimate a \$15 billion reduction in student aid over the next ten years, but only on the mandatory side of the budget. Democrats and many in the media latched onto this number, which appeared on page two of the score, and ignored what the other thirty-five pages said. But as I have read the entire CBO score, I can tell you that the PROSPER Act does not cut federal spending on higher education.

The PROSPER Act expands the federal government's flagship student aid program for low-income students, the Pell Grant. To encourage timely completion, the bill provides a \$300 bonus to Pell Grant students who take on more than a full-time course load. Most importantly, the bill makes several regulatory changes aimed at expanding both student and institutional eligibility for the program. As a result, under the PROSPER Act, an additional 1.1 million students annually would receive Pell Grants by 2027.

All of these changes cost money, of course. But the Pell Grant is unique among federal programs in that it is funded partially on the mandatory side of the budget, and partially through the annual appropriations process. The \$15 billion reduction in student aid that you cited, Congressman, only reflects changes on the mandatory side. If you include the estimated increase in appropriations due to Pell Grant expansion in your calculations, you'll find that the PROSPER Act will increase, federal spending on higher education by \$12 billion over the next ten years.

While the PROSPER Act increases higher education spending overall, it's true that the bill finds savings in certain areas. In a time when the national debt surpasses \$21 trillion, it's important to live within our means. Changes to student loan repayment options are the largest single source of savings in the PROSPER Act. These changes mostly focus on limiting loan forgiveness, which in practice delivers its benefits mostly to graduate borrowers with very large loans. The bill makes these changes while retaining income-driven repayment options for borrowers to ensure monthly payments remain affordable.

The PROSPER Act therefore redistributes federal funds from graduate students and those with high student loan balances, who tend to be higher-income, to the low- and middle-income undergraduate students who receive Pell Grants. These priorities are also reflected in the administration's budget proposal, which would make the student loan program more generous for undergraduates and pay for it by asking higher-earning graduate borrowers to pay a little more.

In conclusion, the PROSPER Act does not cut federal higher education funding by \$15 billion. It increases funding by \$12 billion by making new investments in the Pell Grant program for our nation's most vulnerable

students. Recognizing budget constraints, the bill partially offsets the cost by reining in poorly-targeted and expensive loan forgiveness programs. While I welcome debate over specific provisions of the PROSPER Act, I hope those are priorities that Democrats on the committee can get behind.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, Mr. COOPER explains that there is a common misconception about PROSPER that is being exploited, unfortunately, by many colleges and universities and our Democratic friends.

He says: "The Congressional Budget Office score of the PROSPER Act did estimate a \$15 billion reduction in student aid over the next 10 years, but only on the mandatory side of the budget. Democrats and many in the media latched onto this number, which appeared on page 2 of the score, and ignored what the other 35 pages said. But as I have read the entire CBO score, I can tell you that the PROSPER Act does not cut Federal spending on higher education."

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□ 1215

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I welcome the debate over specific provisions in the PROSPER Act, and I hope that those priorities are ones that the colleges and universities will get behind, and that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle will get behind.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF RUTH HENRICHs

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

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ruth Henrichs, a dedicated public servant from my own district in Omaha, Nebraska. Ms. Henrich's dedication to serving all people and treating them with justice and kindness is a model for all.

It was early in her career as the CEO at Lutheran Family Services when Ruth was profoundly moved by their mission statement, which is "To Express God's Love for All People." For Ruth, the most important word in that sentence is "all," and for the next 41 years of service, 33 of those years as the president and CEO, this mission was Ruth's rock.

Ruth received her bachelor in social welfare in 1972 and her master of social work in 1976, both from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

When she first started at Lutheran Family Services, Ruth walked into one of the treatment facilities and saw a man with a big tattoo on his arm that read "Born to Lose." Ruth wondered, how many people come here every day with "Born to Lose" tattooed on their heart? At that moment, Ruth realized she was born to help others.

Ruth's list of accolades and awards include: Outstanding Young Women of America, Who's Who of American Women, Social Worker of the Year, Champion for Kids and Families' Lifetime Service Award, Women of Distinction Award, and the Milagro Award. Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska recognized her 25 years of service by establishing the Ruth A. Henrichs Leadership Development Fund.

With a passion for helping all, Ruth has served many boards and organizations at all levels, from being a member to chairperson. She has spent a lifetime dedicated to social service and her personal modus operandi: "To spend your life in service, to express God's love for people." That is what Ruth believes and that is what she has done for so long.

Ruth has made a positive impact in our local community of Omaha, in our State of Nebraska and, indeed, our country. She has made an impact where it matters most, the lives of others.

A COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION SOLUTION

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to be responsible, to be accountable to the American public, and to deliver a comprehensive immigration solution. Beyond safeguarding our borders and addressing DACA, it is the responsibility of Congress to pass an immigration bill that provides a workable visa system for our farmers and all agriculture producers back home.

No one has worked harder or understands this more than my colleague and former chairman of the House

Committee on Agriculture, Mr. GOODLATTE. His comprehensive immigration bill, Securing America's Future Act, addresses this by reforming the current H-2A visa program. The bill replaces the outdated H-2A program with a new H-2C visa placing jurisdiction within the United States Department of Agriculture and the Department of Homeland Security.

It also allows our farmers to access a stable supply of workers year-round, an important change for our farmers that work 365 days a year. I have worked hard on this provision with Chairman GOODLATTE, and I am thankful for the time he took to listen to our farmers back home and incorporate many of their ideas and solutions into his bill.

In Kansas, immigrants make the dairy industry run, they strengthen the farms that provide food on kitchen tables across the country and across the world, and it helped the Kansas agriculture industry become the international powerhouse that it is today. Our farms, our local economy, and all the groceries you buy depend on immigrant labor. To address our current farm labor crisis, we need to create a process that is easier to navigate and allows our farmers to access the labor pool they need.

This Congress has focused on keeping our promises to be accountable, and now is as good a time as any, and is actually a great time, to bring immigration to the forefront and deliver for our constituents. Leaving this to the chance of a slipshod petition with zero chance of being signed by the President is simply not a solution.

I am all in on finding solutions, and while I certainly understand the complexity of this issue, this Congress has proved it can move mountains when, just a few months ago, we passed historic tax reform. And we can tackle our Nation's immigration policy by working together.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MAJOR GENERAL JOSEPH MARTIN

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Major General Joseph Martin, who serves as the Commanding General of the 1st Infantry Division back at Fort Riley, Kansas. I have had the pleasure of working with General Martin and his wife, Leann, over the past year and have found them to be exceptional assets to Fort Riley, as well as the entire community. Although I am proud of their new journey, I was sad to hear they will soon be departing for a new post.

General Martin graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1986, alongside another fellow Kansan, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

General Martin was commissioned as an armor officer and, after graduation, served in a variety of troop assignments, including leadership within the Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command in Iraq, where he partnered with Iraqi and Allied Forces to liberate Mosul. Most recently, he served as the Commanding General for

the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California.

As Commanding General of the 1st Infantry Division, General Martin has worked to build readiness among his troops, and continues the partnerships with area communities and organizations to support his soldiers and their families during their time at Fort Riley.

General Martin has excelled at each post he has served in, and will continue to do so at his next assignment at the Pentagon this June. My wife, Laina, and I would like to be the first to welcome General Martin, his wife, Leann, and family to the East Coast. We commend them for their service to our Nation and wish them and their family the very best of luck at their next post.

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 21 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. BANKS of Indiana) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We thank You once again that we, Your creatures, can come before You and ask guidance for the men and women of the people's House.

Send Your spirit of wisdom as they face this day with difficult decisions to be made, determining among competing interests to appropriate funds for the programs required to serve the needs of our Nation.

As voters in many States go to the polls today, bless our citizens with wisdom as well, and a purity of intention to weigh in on those issues of great import in these times.

Bless us this day and every day. May all that is done here this day be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr.

WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

LIVING HISTORY LIVE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, an extraordinary highlight for me on Friday was to live a momentous historic event live on FOX News with the talented Harris Faulkner.

During a scheduled interview on the upcoming North Korean talks, it became a prelude for the breaking news of the North Korean envoy arriving at the White House to deliver the letter to President Donald Trump from Kim Jong-un.

The past year has been a success for President Trump. We were awaiting delivery of a letter to the White House instead of a threatened delivery of a North Korean missile to vaporize the patriotic American territory of Guam.

Beginning with the selection of Vice President MIKE PENCE, the President has capable associates to work for peace through strength, including Chief of Staff John Kelly, Secretary Mike Pompeo, Ambassador John Bolton, and Ambassador Nikki Haley.

American families are safer today, and the China model for North Korea is available for working with America, maintaining its leadership while its citizens are enriched.

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

Congratulations, Harris Faulkner, on the book out today, "9 Rules of Engagement: A Military Brat's Guide to Life and Success."

EMERSON RYAN FOOTE HAS ARRIVED

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on the rainy, dreary early morning of this past Sunday, at 1:56 a.m., June 3, a bright beam of hopeful light burst through the darkness. Her name is Emerson Ryan Foote.

June 3 is also the birth date of her mother, my former chief of staff, Gina. This new miracle of birth is the best birthday present a mother could have: a tiny baby girl.

Emmie, as she will be called, was born here in our Nation's Capital, Washington, D.C.

Parents Gina and Tucker Foote are proud of their new 7-pound, 2-ounce blessing from God.

Every time a new life is brought into the world, we are reminded of all that is good and right. Mr. Speaker, the miracle of birth is the happiest day of the year.

Emmie was born in the most marvelous and free country on Earth, America. I know her wonderful parents will instill a love of liberty, justice, and courage, for one day, her small little hands will shape our future.

Every time a child is born, God smiles and makes a bet on the future of all of us. So happy birthday, Emmie, and happy birthday, Gina.

And that is just the way it is.

SCOUT EXECUTIVE JOHN CARMAN RETIRES

(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, I rise today to recognize a great citizen of Arkansas and one of the pillars of Scouting in our State, John Carman.

John is retiring after 21 years of service as the Scout executive of Quapaw Area Council. He is the longest serving Scout executive in the history of the council.

During his tenure, John played an instrumental role in more than doubling the council's territory, currently encompassing over half the geography and half the population of the State of Arkansas.

Also, under John's leadership, the Quapaw Area Council, for the first time ever, was recognized as a Gold Level Council by the Boy Scouts of America's Journey to Excellence program, the highest award a council can earn.

After a 35-year career as a professional Scouter, John and Mary plan to move to Louisville, Kentucky, and spend more time with their beautiful family.

My congratulations to John on an incredible career and best wishes for his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PENNSYLVANIA'S STUDENTS AT CONGRESS OF FUTURE MEDICAL LEADERS

(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 six high school honors students from Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District chosen to represent the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as delegates at the Congress of Future Medical Leaders.

The following students were selected to attend the event, which will take

place June 25 to June 27 in Lowell, Massachusetts: Tessa Anderson of Clarendon, Taylor Grove of Mount Union, Daniel Headrick of Corry, Serena Clarke of Warren, Selena Foster of Sheffield, and Monica Scotto of DuBois.

These outstanding students were required to achieve a 3.5 GPA to be nominated for this prestigious honors-only program by their teachers or the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists.

The event aims to encourage and guide the top students in our country who hope to become physicians or medical scientists. Chosen delegates at the congress represent all 50 States and Puerto Rico.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate these students on this tremendous accomplishment, and I wish them the best of luck as they continue their path to leading our Nation's medical profession.

HONORING RETIRING TSA DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR ROD ALLISON

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

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Roderick Allison, Acting Deputy Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, who recently announced his retirement from TSA after 33 years of government service.

Mr. Allison's career began in 1985 with 13 years in the U.S. Army at the National Security Agency and 7th Special Forces Group.

In 1998, Director Allison's career with the Federal Air Marshal Service began when the program was part of the FAA.

Following the events of 9/11, Mr. Allison returned to the Federal Air Marshal Service and has served with distinction in several critical roles throughout TSA, including Acting Administrator, Acting Chief of Staff, and Acting Chief of Operations.

Since becoming Director of the Federal Air Marshal Service in May of 2014, Mr. Allison has been widely recognized for his resolute leadership, integrity, and commitment to the mission of TSA and the Federal Air Marshal Service. He truly is a leader among leaders. He has established a lasting legacy, both through action and mentorship, that will continue to have a positive impact on TSA and Federal Air Marshal Service personnel for many years to come.

Thank you for your service, Mr. Allison.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4:30 p.m. today.

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

□ 1633

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MEADOWS) at 4 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules 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.

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS U.S. WORKFORCE ACT OF 2018

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5956) to incentivize the hiring of United States workers in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5956

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to increase the percentage of United States workers (as defined in section 6(i) of the Joint Resolution entitled "A Joint Resolution to approve the 'Covenant To Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America', and for other purposes" (48 U.S.C. 1806)) in the total workforce of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, while maintaining the minimum number of workers who are not United States workers to meet the changing demands of the Northern Mariana Islands' economy;

(2) to encourage the hiring of United States workers into such workforce; and

(3) to ensure that no United States worker—

(A) is at a competitive disadvantage for employment compared to a worker who is not a United States worker; or

(B) is displaced by a worker who is not a United States worker.

SEC. 3. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6 of the Joint Resolution entitled "A Joint Resolution to approve the 'Covenant To Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America', and for other purposes" (48 U.S.C. 1806) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking "2019" and inserting "2029"; and

(B) by amending paragraph (6) to read as follows:

"(6) FEES FOR TRAINING UNITED STATES WORKERS.—

"(A) SUPPLEMENTAL FEE.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—In addition to fees imposed pursuant to section 286(m) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.

1356(m)) to recover the full costs of adjudication services, the Secretary shall impose an annual supplemental fee of \$200 per non-immigrant worker on each prospective employer who is issued a permit under subsection (d)(3) during the transition program. A prospective employer that is issued a permit with a validity period of longer than 1 year shall pay the fee for each year of requested validity at the time the permit is requested.

"(ii) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—Beginning in fiscal year 2020, the Secretary, through notice in the Federal Register, may annually adjust the supplemental fee imposed under clause (i) by a percentage equal to the annual change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"(iii) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts collected pursuant to clause (i) shall be deposited into the Treasury of the Commonwealth Government for the sole and exclusive purpose of funding vocational education, apprenticeships, or other training programs for United States workers.

"(iv) FRAUD PREVENTION AND DETECTION FEE.—In addition to the fees described in clause (i), the Secretary—

"(I) shall impose, on each prospective employer filing a petition under this subsection for 1 or more nonimmigrant workers, a \$50 fraud prevention and detection fee; and

"(II) shall deposit and use the fees collected under subclause (I) for the sole purpose of preventing and detecting immigration benefit fraud in the Northern Mariana Islands, in accordance with section 286(v)(2)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356(v)(2)(B)).

"(B) PLAN FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS.—Not later than 120 days before the first day of fiscal year 2020, and annually thereafter, the Governor of the Commonwealth Government shall submit to the Secretary of Labor—

"(i) a plan for the expenditures of amounts deposited under subparagraph (A)(iii);

"(ii) a projection of the effectiveness of such expenditures in the placement of United States workers into jobs held by non-United States workers; and

"(iii) a report on the changes in employment of United States workers attributable to expenditures of such amounts during the previous year.

"(C) DETERMINATION AND REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after receiving each expenditure plan under subparagraph (B)(i), the Secretary of Labor shall—

"(i) issue a determination on the plan; and

"(ii) submit a report to Congress that describes the effectiveness of the Commonwealth Government at meeting the goals set forth in such plan.

"(D) PAYMENT RESTRICTION.—Payments may not be made in a fiscal year from amounts deposited under subparagraph (A)(iii) before the Secretary of Labor has approved the expenditure plan submitted under subparagraph (B)(i) for that fiscal year.";

(2) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the following:

"(3) REPORT.—Not later than December 1, 2027, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives that—

"(A) projects the number of asylum claims the Secretary anticipates following the termination of the transition period; and

"(B) describes the efforts of the Secretary to ensure appropriate interdiction efforts, provide for appropriate treatment of asylum

seekers, and prepare to accept and adjudicate asylum claims in the Commonwealth.”;

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (5) as paragraphs (3) through (6), respectively;

(B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) PROTECTION FOR UNITED STATES WORKERS.—

“(A) TEMPORARY LABOR CERTIFICATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with petitions filed with employment start dates in fiscal year 2020, a petition to import a non-immigrant worker under this subsection may not be approved by the Secretary unless the petitioner has applied to the Secretary of Labor for a temporary labor certification confirming that—

“(I) there are not sufficient United States workers in the Commonwealth who are able, willing, qualified, and available at the time and place needed to perform the services or labor involved in the petition; and

“(II) employment of the nonimmigrant worker will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of similarly employed United States workers.

“(ii) PETITION.—After receiving a temporary labor certification under clause (i), a prospective employer may submit a petition to the Secretary for a Commonwealth Only Transitional Worker permit on behalf of the nonimmigrant worker.

“(B) PREVAILING WAGE SURVEY.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In order to effectuate the requirement for a temporary labor certification under subparagraph (A)(i), the Secretary of Labor shall use, or make available to employers, an occupational wage survey conducted by the Governor that the Secretary of Labor has determined meets the statistical standards for determining prevailing wages in the Commonwealth on an annual basis.

“(ii) ALTERNATIVE METHOD FOR DETERMINING THE PREVAILING WAGE.—In the absence of an occupational wage survey approved by the Secretary of Labor under clause (i), the prevailing wage for an occupation in the Commonwealth shall be the arithmetic mean of the wages of workers similarly employed in the territory of Guam according to the wage component of the Occupational Employment Statistics Survey conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

“(C) MINIMUM WAGE.—An employer shall pay each Commonwealth Only Transitional Worker a wage that is not less than the greater of—

“(i) the statutory minimum wage in the Commonwealth;

“(ii) the Federal minimum wage; or

“(iii) the prevailing wage in the Commonwealth for the occupation in which the worker is employed.”;

(C) by amending paragraph (3), as redesignated, to read as follows:

“(3) PERMITS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish, administer, and enforce a system for allocating and determining terms and conditions of permits to be issued to prospective employers for each nonimmigrant worker described in this subsection who would not otherwise be eligible for admission under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

“(B) NUMERICAL CAP.—The number of permits issued under subparagraph (A) may not exceed—

“(i) 13,000 for fiscal year 2019;

“(ii) 12,500 for fiscal year 2020;

“(iii) 12,000 for fiscal year 2021;

“(iv) 11,500 for fiscal year 2022;

“(v) 11,000 for fiscal year 2023;

“(vi) 10,000 for fiscal year 2024;

“(vii) 9,000 for fiscal year 2025;

“(viii) 8,000 for fiscal year 2026;

“(ix) 7,000 for fiscal year 2027;

“(x) 6,000 for fiscal year 2028;

“(xi) 5,000 for fiscal year 2029; and

“(xii) 1,000 for the first quarter of fiscal year 2030.

“(C) REPORTS REGARDING THE PERCENTAGE OF UNITED STATES WORKERS.—

“(i) BY GOVERNOR.—Not later than 60 days before the end of each calendar year, the Governor shall submit a report to the Secretary that identifies the ratio between United States workers and other workers in the Commonwealth’s workforce based on income tax filings with the Commonwealth for the tax year.

“(ii) BY GAO.—Not later than December 31, 2019, and biennially thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to the Chair and Ranking Member of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, the Chair and Ranking Member of the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, the Chair and Ranking Member of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Chair and Ranking Member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives that identifies the ratio between United States workers and other workers in the Commonwealth’s workforce during each of the previous 5 calendar years.

“(D) PETITION; ISSUANCE OF PERMITS.—

“(i) SUBMISSION.—A prospective employer may submit a petition for a permit under this paragraph not earlier than—

“(I) 120 days before the date on which the prospective employer needs the beneficiary’s services; or

“(II) if the petition is for the renewal of an existing permit, not earlier than 180 days before the expiration of such permit.

“(ii) EMPLOYMENT VERIFICATION.—The Secretary shall establish a system for each employer of a Commonwealth Only Transitional Worker to submit a semiannual report to the Secretary and the Secretary of Labor that provides evidence to verify the continuing employment and payment of such worker under the terms and conditions set forth in the permit petition that the employer filed on behalf of such worker.

“(iii) REVOCATION.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in the Secretary’s discretion, may revoke a permit approved under this paragraph for good cause, including if—

“(aa) the employer fails to maintain the continuous employment of the subject worker, fails to pay the subject worker, fails to timely file a semiannual report required under this paragraph, commits any other violation of the terms and conditions of employment, or otherwise ceases to operate as a legitimate business (as defined in clause (iv)(II));

“(bb) the beneficiary of such petition does not apply for admission to the Commonwealth by the date that is 10 days after the period of petition validity begins, if the employer has requested consular processing; or

“(cc) the employer fails to provide a former, current, or prospective Commonwealth Only Transitional Worker, not later than 21 business days after receiving a written request from such worker, with the original (or a certified copy of the original) of all petitions, notices, and other written communication related to the worker (other than sensitive financial or proprietary information of the employer, which may be redacted) that has been exchanged between the employer and the Department of Labor, the Department of Homeland Security, or any other Federal agency or department.

“(II) REALLOCATION OF REVOKED PETITION.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (C), for each permit revoked under subclause (I) in a fiscal year, an additional permit shall be made available for use in the subsequent fiscal year.

“(iv) LEGITIMATE BUSINESS.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—A permit may not be approved for a prospective employer that is not a legitimate business.

“(II) DEFINED TERM.—In this clause, the term ‘legitimate business’ means a real, active, and operating commercial or entrepreneurial undertaking that the Secretary, in the Secretary’s sole discretion, determines—

“(aa) produces services or goods for profit, or is a governmental, charitable, or other validly recognized nonprofit entity;

“(bb) meets applicable legal requirements for doing business in the Commonwealth;

“(cc) has substantially complied with wage and hour laws, occupational safety and health requirements, and all other Federal, Commonwealth, and local requirements related to employment during the preceding 5 years;

“(dd) does not directly or indirectly engage in, or knowingly benefit from, prostitution, human trafficking, or any other activity that is illegal under Federal, Commonwealth, or local law; and

“(ee) is a participant in good standing in the E-Verify program;

“(ff) does not have, as an owner, investor, manager, operator, or person meaningfully involved with the undertaking, any individual who has been the owner, investor, manager, operator, or otherwise meaningfully involved with an undertaking that does not comply with item (cc) or (dd), or is the agent of such an individual; and

“(gg) is not a successor in interest to an undertaking that does not comply with item (cc) or (dd).

“(v) CONSTRUCTION OCCUPATIONS.—A permit for Construction and Extraction Occupations (as defined by the Department of Labor as Standard Occupational Classification Group 47-0000) may not be issued for any worker other than a worker described in paragraph (7)(B).”;

(D) in paragraph (4), as redesignated, by inserting “or to Guam for the purpose of transit only” after “except admission to the Commonwealth”;

(E) in paragraph (5), as redesignated, by adding at the end the following: “Approval of a petition filed by the new employer with a start date within the same fiscal year as the current permit shall not count against the numerical limitation for that period.”; and

(F) by adding at the end the following:

“(7) REQUIREMENT TO REMAIN OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B)—

“(i) a permit for a Commonwealth Only Transitional Worker—

“(I) shall remain valid for a period that may not exceed 1 year; and

“(II) may be renewed for not more than 2 consecutive, 1-year periods; and

“(ii) at the expiration of the second renewal period, an alien may not again be eligible for such a permit until after the alien has remained outside of the United States for a continuous period of at least 30 days prior to the submission of a renewal petition on their behalf.

“(B) LONG-TERM WORKERS.—An alien who was admitted to the Commonwealth as a Commonwealth Only Transitional Worker during fiscal year 2015, and during every subsequent fiscal year beginning before the date of the enactment of the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act of 2018, may receive a permit for a Commonwealth Only

Transitional Worker that is valid for a period that may not exceed 3 years and may be renewed for additional 3-year periods during the transition period. A permit issued under this subparagraph shall be counted toward the numerical cap for each fiscal year within the period of petition validity.”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) COMMONWEALTH.—The term ‘Commonwealth’ means the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

“(2) COMMONWEALTH ONLY TRANSITION WORKER.—The term ‘Commonwealth Only Transition Worker’ means an alien who has been admitted into the Commonwealth under the transition program and is eligible for a permit under subsection (d)(3).

“(3) GOVERNOR.—The term ‘Governor’ means the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

“(4) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

“(5) TAX YEAR.—The term ‘tax year’ means the fiscal year immediately preceding the current fiscal year.

“(6) UNITED STATES WORKER.—The term ‘United States worker’ means any worker who is—

“(A) a citizen or national of the United States;

“(B) an alien who has been lawfully admitted for permanent residence; or

“(C) a citizen of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau (known collectively as the ‘Freely Associated States’) who has been lawfully admitted to the United States pursuant to—

“(i) section 141 of the Compact of Free Association between the Government of the United States and the Governments of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia (48 U.S.C. 1921 note); or

“(ii) section 141 of the Compact of Free Association between the United States and the Government of Palau (48 U.S.C. 1931 note).”.

(b) RULEMAKING.—

(1) SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY.—Notwithstanding the requirements under section 553(b) of title 5, United States Code, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall publish in the Federal Register, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, an interim final rule that specifies how the Secretary intends to implement the amendments made by subsection (a) that relate to the responsibilities of the Secretary.

(2) SECRETARY OF LABOR.—Notwithstanding the requirements under section 553(b) of title 5, United States Code, the Secretary of Labor shall publish in the Federal Register, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, an interim final rule that specifies how the Secretary intends to implement the amendments made by subsection (a) that relate to the responsibilities of the Secretary.

(3) RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GOVERNOR.—In developing the interim final rules under paragraphs (1) and (2), the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Labor—

(A) shall each consider, in good faith, any written public recommendations regarding the implementation of this Act that are submitted by the Governor of the Commonwealth not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) may include provisions in such rule that are responsive to any recommendation of the Governor that is not inconsistent with this Act, including a recommendation to reserve a number of permits each year for occupational categories necessary to maintain public health or safety in the Commonwealth.

(c) DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Not later than October 1, 2019, and biennially thereafter, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit a report to Congress that describes the fulfillment of the Department of the Interior’s responsibilities to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands—

(1) to identify opportunities for economic growth and diversification;

(2) to provide assistance in recruiting, training, and hiring United States workers; and

(3) to provide such other technical assistance and consultation as outlined in section 702(e) of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (48 U.S.C. 1807).

(d) OUTREACH AND TRAINING.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which the Secretary of Labor publishes an interim final rule in the Federal Register in accordance with subsection (b)(2), the Secretary shall conduct outreach and training in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for employers and workers on the foreign labor certification process set forth in section 6 of the Joint Resolution entitled “A Joint Resolution to approve the ‘Covenant To Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America’, and for other purposes”, as amended by subsection (b), including the minimum wage requirement set forth in subsection (d)(2)(C) of such section.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as specifically otherwise provided, this Act and the amendments made by this Act—

(A) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) shall apply to petitions for Commonwealth Only Transitional Workers filed on or after such date.

(2) AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in the Secretary’s discretion, may delay the effective date of any provision of this Act relating to Commonwealth Only Transitional Workers until the effective date of the interim final rule described in subsection (b), except for provisions providing annual numerical caps for such workers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 5956. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands had a political union with the United States back in 1986. As part of that covenant, which has several different elements that make it unique among all of the territories as well as the other States, it authorized a local level of established programs to permit

foreign workers to enter into the Northern Marianas.

In 2008, I believe it was, Congress established this law to create a standard with the goal of actually trying to reduce the annual number of permits given to foreign workers—eventually, hopefully, to zero—to stabilize so that the workforce became more American.

Three years later, they finally came up with a way of implementing that—relatively quick for U.S. Government standards. But the citizenship program that was established, the CW permit program, unfortunately, it doesn’t quite work as we had thought it might do.

So, in 2017, GAO reported that, since 2013, demand for these permits had doubled, and in fiscal year 2016, the demand exceeded the numerical cap that we have on these particular permits.

The bottom line is simple. This idea of having the American workforce is wonderful, but if you have an area with a small population with a good economy, which means there is low unemployment, and for some reason there is not a whole lot of Americans who want to travel a 15-hour plane ride to get to their work destination, there is a need for a foreign workforce on these particular islands. And in some areas, it is unique.

It was estimated that 80 percent of all the hospitality and construction jobs need to be filled by a foreign workforce. In the hospitals there, if we don’t make a change in this, all of the nurses will no longer be eligible to stay on the island and do that needed service.

And, actually, if we don’t make some kind of adjustments in these caps, it could have a negative impact on the economy of the Northern Marianas, anywhere between 30 and 60 percent, sharply changing their gross domestic product.

The intent of this particular bill in this version is threefold: number one, we want to increase the percentage of U.S. workers in the total workforce in the Marianas while maintaining a certain number of non-U.S. workers to meet the demands of the Northern Marianas economy; number two, encourage the hiring of U.S. workers into the Northern Mariana workforce; and number three—and this is perhaps the important one—to ensure that no U.S. worker is at a competitive disadvantage compared to any non-U.S. worker or is going to be displaced by a non-U.S. worker.

But until that is accomplished, this bill will have some flexibility on those caps, and it will be permitted to extend beyond the 2019 date to 2029 so we can see how it does or does not work.

This bill gives necessary relief to the Northern Marianas. I want to thank the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLON) for working with us on this bill. I am also grateful to the government of the Northern Mariana Islands. Governor Torres has been in constant communication with us. He is supportive of what we are attempting to do. Oddly enough, I want

to thank our colleagues in the Senate who are also supportive of this particular idea, even if they drafted somewhat of an inartful piece of legislation so we have to come at it one more time.

But there is agreement that this is the proper thing to do so this Commonwealth can actually maintain a steady workforce and maintain an economy that will continue to grow in the future. All the significant players on the island in the territory are in support of what we are attempting to do.

Mr. Speaker, I obviously urge adoption of this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, Chairman BISHOP has just provided an accurate statement of the economic rationale for the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act, H.R. 5956.

The Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act will allow the Marianas economy to continue growing so there is ample opportunity for new business investments and for jobs. I want to use my time simply to emphasize that this bill is about jobs—jobs for U.S. workers in my district.

The bill contains new requirements to ensure that no U.S. worker is ever passed over for a job and that wages and working conditions for U.S. workers are always maintained and protected.

It ensures the fees employers pay are put to effective use, providing better training and apprenticeship opportunities for U.S. workers. The bill encourages the continuing conversion of the Marianas economy to one in which, numerically, U.S. workers are predominant. That is why the legislation is titled the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act. That is a statement of our purpose and our goal.

I say “our purpose” because this legislation is the product of a bipartisan and bicameral working group. It included Chairman BISHOP and Ranking Member GRIJALVA, their committee leader counterparts in the other body, the Judiciary Committee representatives, and myself.

We began in late 2016 working first on the legislation that became Public Law 115-53. It was not easy finding common ground among such a diversity of views. But by listening to each other and because we share a common concern to better the lives of Americans—even Americans in the faraway Marianas—we succeeded in agreeing on this second bill, the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act, a very good bill with very good policy.

As a Delegate, Mr. Speaker, I cannot vote for this bill. I can, however, give my vote of thanks to Chairman BISHOP because even a good bill with good policy has to navigate the twists and turns of the legislative process. And without the chairman's leadership, we might not be here on the floor today considering the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act.

I thank the gentleman and leadership on both sides of the aisle, whose attention and cooperation helped me bring this bill to the floor, and thank all of the working group members who helped the people of the Northern Marianas by working with me to draft this legislation.

Lastly, I thank my constituents. Over the last 10 years, they have shared their own experiences with me and given me their ideas on what Federal policy would best fit our islands. I listened to them and spoke for them, and we have incorporated their experiences and their ideas into the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act. I believe my constituents' needs are well represented because this legislation has the full support of the Marianas Governor, the legislature, the business community, and the men and women who meet and talked with me in everyday life.

In closing, I ask my colleagues for their support of the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act.

Seeing no other speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands for helping me with this particular bill. I am very grateful also to Governor Torres of the Commonwealth and to the business community there. I think we have found a practical solution to a real problem that could create harm for this Commonwealth.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of that area. I visited it once, and I hope to go back there again and notice the economic growth that continues there in the Northern Marianas.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support 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 Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5956.

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.

NORTH COUNTRY NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL ROUTE ADJUSTMENT ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1026) 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, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1026

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “North Country National Scenic Trail Route Adjustment Act”.

SEC. 2. ROUTE ADJUSTMENT.

Section 5(a)(8) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(a)(8)) is amended in the first sentence—

(1) by striking “thirty-two hundred miles, extending from eastern New York State” and inserting “4,600 miles, extending from the Appalachian Trail in Vermont”; and

(2) by striking “Proposed North Country Trail” and all that follows through “June 1975.” and inserting “‘North Country National Scenic Trail, Authorized Route’, dated February 2014, and numbered 649/116870.”.

SEC. 3. LAND ACQUISITION.

Neither the Secretary of Agriculture nor the Secretary of the Interior may acquire for the North Country National Scenic Trail land in Minnesota or Vermont that was obtained through condemnation by a State or local government.

SEC. 4. ENERGY.

Nothing in the amendments made by this Act that change the authorized route of the North Country National Scenic Trail in Minnesota or Vermont shall prohibit the development, production, conveyance, or transmission of energy in those States, with reasonable efforts made to preserve the nature and purpose of the North Country National Scenic Trail, and to mitigate any damage to that trail and its associated resources caused by such activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLÁN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The North Country National Scenic Trail is about 4,000 miles and links scenic, national, historic, and cultural areas across seven States. It goes from basically North Dakota through New York and will eventually end up in Vermont.

The issue at hand here is a section in Minnesota which is about 93 miles that has not been built because it is a swamp. You can't build it there.

□ 1645

So what this would do—and it is strange we have to pass legislation to do it—is simply authorize to build a trail and go around the swamp which may add some additional miles to it, maybe around 400. It also authorizes at the other end about, maybe 66 miles of potential road from Vermont so that they can all connect to the Appalachian Trail which will create one of the most significant trails, the longest trail that we have to be able to use in this country.

I should say the National Park Service has studied this, they have approved it; and nonetheless, it is still a good idea. I urge its adoption, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLÁN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN).

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman BISHOP for his thoughtful

consideration of this legislation and his very apt, clear, and concise explanation of what it does. I also want to thank our ranking member, Mr. GRIJALVA, and thank the bipartisan sponsorship for this legislation adjusting, expanding, and finishing off this great North Country National Scenic Trail.

As Chairman BISHOP explained, it starts up here at Sakakawea State Park and then travels all the way through the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Superior National Forest through Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, New York, and Pennsylvania, all the way up to beautiful Lake Champlain and will connect with the great Appalachian Trail, which my family and I have enjoyed hiking on as well in years past.

So I want to now note with gratitude the fact that virtually all—I am not sure everyone—but most all of the Members, Democrats and Republicans, whose district this trail goes through are cosponsors on the legislation. It enjoys wonderfully good bipartisan support.

Mr. Speaker, there are millions of people in this country who really enjoy hiking and the camaraderie, the exercise, and all the good things that go along with that. So with this in mind, Chairman BISHOP has already explained the fact that it gets us through this 100 miles of bog. Hats off to the State and local officials and the private landowners. All have agreed to do this without any cost to the public and without any exercise of eminent domain.

Also hats off to the volunteers who enjoy so much of this hiking. I have actually worked on some of the trails myself. Of course, coming out of the sawmill and the pallet construction business, why, I feel pretty good with an ax, a hatchet, and a chain saw, so I have been out myself and volunteered my services to expand these trails.

So with that in mind, I want to thank my good friend from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) for his work, help, and support in bringing this trail all the way up to that beautiful Lake Champlain and then connecting it with the great Appalachian Trail as well.

I think it is important to note that this legislation is not just about trails. It is about good jobs, and it is about good economic development. The fact is that there are millions of Americans who are out here hiking on these trails all the time. They get hungry and they get thirsty. They want to stop somewhere, have a refreshment, have a bite to eat, and support all the local restaurants.

Secondly, hiking causes some exertion, which is why it is good exercise. So they get a little tired along the way, and they want to stop and spend a night or two in local hotels along the way. Of course, they also need some additional equipment or repairs or a new pair of shoes.

The American Hiking Society has determined that, applying the multiplier

effect here, this reaches and results in about \$196 billion a year and supports about 768,000 jobs. I explained here how that happens.

So along with the good-paying jobs, there is this enormous health factor. Experts are telling us now that our youth have a nature deficit in their thinking. In fancy terms it means the kids just don't get out enough anymore. One study indicated that each day the average kid spends 7 minutes outdoors and 7 hours in front of a computer or a TV screen. So we need to get our kids outdoors so they can learn the values and appreciation of the great outdoors. They are probably not going to get a chance to spend any time at Walden Pond, but we can get them out and exercising.

So it is a good bill for economic health; it is a good bill for business and economic development. I want to again thank the chairman for his support in his committee for this legislation.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Minnesota for introducing this bill. As he said, the North Country Trail is really a gem that goes across seven States.

But I take particular interest in it because the 173 miles that we are adding today are so close to the State of Wisconsin. I know there are many outdoor enthusiasts in my district for whom it is very important to do what they can to complete the North Country Trail.

As was mentioned right now, to go through the trail you would wind up in an area that would be very difficult to get through. So I am sure there is an economic benefit to this to Minnesota, but to me far more than the economic benefit is the huge benefit so many of our American citizens take and experience in the outdoors, particularly in the area that is relatively undeveloped.

I encourage passage of the bill. Add the new 173 miles. I am sure there are plenty of constituents in Wisconsin's Sixth Congressional District who look forward to walking across each one of those miles.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time remains.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands has 15 minutes remaining.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield the distinguished gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) such time as he may consume.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands and my cosponsor, the lead sponsor, Mr. NOLAN. I also want to thank Chairman BISHOP.

Chairman BISHOP, I want to thank you as well. You did something for us in Vermont with the Missisquoi River, and everything is working out. You had your same skepticism of certain

agencies, but Vermonters are very grateful. You helped us then, and you are helping us now.

I will take issue with a little thing you said. You presented the fact that this is going to go into Vermont. I heard it as an afterthought. I may be a little sensitive, but the whole point of walking 4,600 miles is to get to Vermont. That is what it is about.

This is covering all these States, starting up in the Plains and coming around that bog hopefully, and it is going to connect up to the Appalachian Trail that not only runs through Vermont, Mr. NOLAN, but runs by my house. I am going to wave to you next year when you have the time of being a retired Member of Congress and you are marching across that trail, when you get to Vermont, we are going to say hello and invite you in.

The points you made are true. The economic benefit of this is really substantial. It gets people out and around and into the communities. The spin-off economic benefit is very substantial. In Vermont, our whole trail system, which we are very proud of, as I note you are in Minnesota, we estimate that about one in seven Vermont jobs depends on outdoor recreation, about 51,000 jobs and about \$5.5 billion in consumer spending. And that is a big deal.

The other point you alluded to is something I really think is important. It is good for the bottom line, but it is good for the soul: the camaraderie, the family participation, the connection that people have to where they live and the beauty of where it is they live.

It is interesting you have got sponsors from all of the States through which this trail goes, and it didn't matter if it was Republican or Democrat because all of us have so much engagement with our citizens and ourselves where they have a sense of place in that location where the trail goes through their land, and they get out there, like you say, with the chain saws, and the amount of volunteer work that goes into making these trails passable in winter and summer is extraordinary.

So this whole effort on this trail and in all of our trails is something that I think Congress should be doing as much of as it possibly can. It is good for the economy, it is good for the heart, and it is good for the soul.

This is very, very important to us in Vermont. The Appalachian Trail goes through part of Vermont. The Green Mountain Corridor goes through all of Vermont, and we have a number of other trails that sometimes link up with snowmobile byways, some of which go across the land my wife and I own. And your legislation I think is building on a very, very ambitious and wonderful trail, the North Country National Scenic Trail.

When you think about it, a person—you showed it on the map—can walk all that way. Do you know what? There are people who are going to do it. They are doing the Appalachian Trail, they

are doing the Pacific Coast Trail, and it becomes a lifetime effort for them. They plan it, and they arrange with friends to meet and do it. Whether you can do all of it, like Mr. BISHOP probably could, and you could, or some of it, which I could do, it is an opportunity out there that awaits us, our kids, our grandkids, and future generations.

So, Mr. NOLAN, I have got to say that it has been an enormous pleasure to serve with you in Congress. You are one of the most direct and forthright people whom I have seen here. I think as a piece of legislation to pass upon the soon departure of your second round here in Congress, this is really something that generations of Americans, generations of Minnesotans, and generations of Vermonters are going to have very, very fond feelings, look back and thank you, RICK NOLAN, for taking up the leadership on this tribute to our land and to our people.

I want to thank you for letting me be part of this effort.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will gently remind Members that they need to direct their remarks to the Chair.

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

Mr. SABLON. Mr. Speaker, I ask for support of this legislation. I just want to say if it is really 4,600 miles, then that is the equivalent of a round trip between San Francisco and Honolulu, a distance which I frequently fly and don't actually enjoy sitting down.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I have no further speakers. I ask for support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to have been able to work on a bill that makes the assumption that someone actually does want to walk to Vermont. If indeed you can find that individual, we will provide an opportunity for it to take place.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have five legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1026, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUSQUEHANNA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2991) to establish the Susquehanna National Heritage Area in the State of Pennsylvania, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2991

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Susquehanna National Heritage Area Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **HERITAGE AREA.**—The term "Heritage Area" means the Susquehanna National Heritage Area established by section 3(a).

(2) **LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.**—The term "local coordinating entity" means the local coordinating entity for the Heritage Area designated by section 4(a).

(3) **MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—The term "management plan" means the plan developed by the local coordinating entity under section 5(a).

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(5) **STATE.**—The term "State" means the State of Pennsylvania.

SEC. 3. SUSQUEHANNA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established the Susquehanna National Heritage Area in the State.

(b) **BOUNDARIES.**—The Heritage Area shall include Lancaster and York Counties, Pennsylvania.

SEC. 4. DESIGNATION OF LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.

(a) **LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.**—The Susquehanna Heritage Corporation, a nonprofit organization established under the laws of the State, shall be the local coordinating entity for the Heritage Area.

(b) **AUTHORITIES OF LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.**—The local coordinating entity may, for purposes of preparing and implementing the management plan—

(1) prepare reports, studies, interpretive exhibits and programs, historic preservation projects, and other activities recommended in the management plan for the Heritage Area;

(2) make grants to the State, political subdivisions of the State, nonprofit organizations, and other persons;

(3) enter into cooperative agreements with the State, political subdivisions of the State, nonprofit organizations, and other organizations;

(4) hire and compensate staff;

(5) obtain funds or services from any source, including funds and services provided under any Federal program or law, in which case the Federal share of the cost of any activity assisted using Federal funds provided for National Heritage Areas shall not be more than 50 percent; and

(6) contract for goods and services.

(c) **DUTIES OF LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.**—To further the purposes of the Heritage Area, the local coordinating entity shall—

(1) prepare a management plan for the Heritage Area in accordance with section 5;

(2) give priority to the implementation of actions, goals, and strategies set forth in the management plan, including assisting units of government and other persons in—

(A) carrying out programs and projects that recognize and protect important resource values in the Heritage Area;

(B) encouraging economic viability in the Heritage Area in accordance with the goals of the management plan;

(C) establishing and maintaining interpretive exhibits in the Heritage Area;

(D) developing heritage-based recreational and educational opportunities for residents and visitors in the Heritage Area;

(E) increasing public awareness of and appreciation for the natural, historic, and cultural resources of the Heritage Area;

(F) restoring historic buildings that are—

(i) located in the Heritage Area; and

(ii) related to the themes of the Heritage Area; and

(G) installing throughout the Heritage Area clear, consistent, and appropriate signs identifying public access points and sites of interest;

(3) consider the interests of diverse units of government, businesses, tourism officials, private property owners, and nonprofit groups within the Heritage Area in developing and implementing the management plan;

(4) conduct public meetings at least semi-annually regarding the development and implementation of the management plan; and

(5) for any fiscal year for which Federal funds provided for National Heritage Areas are expended for the Heritage Area—

(A) submit to the Secretary an annual report that describes—

(i) the accomplishments of the local coordinating entity;

(ii) the expenses and income of the local coordinating entity; and

(iii) the entities to which the local coordinating entity made any grants;

(B) make available for audit all records relating to the expenditure of the Federal funds and any matching funds; and

(C) require, with respect to all agreements authorizing the expenditure of Federal funds by other organizations, that the receiving organizations make available for audit all records relating to the expenditure of the Federal funds.

(d) **PROHIBITION ON ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The local coordinating entity shall not use Federal funds provided for National Heritage Areas to acquire real property or any interest in real property.

(2) **OTHER SOURCES.**—Nothing in this Act precludes the local coordinating entity from using funds from other sources for authorized purposes, including the acquisition of real property or any interest in real property.

SEC. 5. MANAGEMENT PLAN.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available to carry out this Act, the local coordinating entity shall prepare and submit to the Secretary a management plan for the Heritage Area.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—The management plan for the Heritage Area shall—

(1) include comprehensive policies, strategies, and recommendations for the conservation, funding, management, and development of the Heritage Area;

(2) include a description of actions and commitments that governments, private organizations, and citizens will take to protect, enhance, and interpret the natural, historic, scenic, and cultural resources of the Heritage Area;

(3) describe a program of implementation for the management plan that includes—

(A) performance goals and ongoing performance evaluation;

(B) plans for resource protection, enhancement and interpretation; and

(C) specific commitments for implementation that have been made by the local coordinating entity or any government, organization, business or individual;

(4) include an interpretative plan for the Heritage Area;

(5) take into consideration existing State, county, and local plans;

(6) specify the existing and potential sources of funding to protect, manage, and develop the Heritage Area;

(7) include an inventory of the natural, historic, cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational resources of the Heritage Area relating to the themes of the Heritage Area that should be preserved, restored, managed, developed, or maintained; and

(8) include an analysis of, and recommendations for, ways in which Federal, State, and local programs, may best be coordinated to further the purposes of this Act, including recommendations for the role of the National Park Service in the Heritage Area.

(C) **APPROVAL AND DISAPPROVAL OF MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the local coordinating entity submits the management plan to the Secretary, the Secretary shall approve or disapprove the proposed management plan.

(2) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In determining whether to approve or disapprove the management plan, the Secretary shall consider whether—

(A) the local coordinating entity is representative of the diverse interests of the Heritage Area, including governments, natural and historic resource protection organizations, educational institutions, businesses, and recreational organizations;

(B) the local coordinating entity has provided adequate opportunities (including public meetings) for public and governmental involvement in the preparation of the management plan;

(C) the resource protection and interpretation strategies contained in the management plan, if implemented, would adequately protect the natural, historic, and cultural resources of the Heritage Area; and

(D) the management plan is supported by the appropriate State and local officials, the cooperation of which is needed to ensure the effective implementation of the State and local aspects of the management plan.

(3) **DISAPPROVAL AND REVISIONS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—If the Secretary disapproves a proposed management plan, the Secretary shall—

(i) advise the local coordinating entity, in writing, of the reasons for the disapproval; and

(ii) make recommendations for revision of the proposed management plan.

(B) **APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.**—The Secretary shall approve or disapprove a revised management plan not later than 180 days after the date on which the revised management plan is submitted.

(C) **APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS.**—The Secretary shall review and approve or disapprove substantial amendments to the management plan in accordance with subsection (c).

SEC. 6. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Nothing in this Act affects the authority of a Federal agency to provide technical or financial assistance under any other law.

(b) **CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION.**—The head of any Federal agency planning to conduct activities that may have an impact on the Heritage Area is encouraged to consult and coordinate the activities with the Sec-

retary and the local coordinating entity to the extent practicable.

(c) **OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.**—Nothing in this Act—

(1) modifies, alters, or amends any law or regulation authorizing a Federal agency to manage Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Federal agency;

(2) limits the discretion of a Federal land manager to implement an approved land use plan within the boundaries of the Heritage Area; or

(3) modifies, alters, or amends any authorized use of Federal land under the jurisdiction of a Federal agency.

SEC. 7. PRIVATE PROPERTY AND REGULATORY PROTECTIONS.

Nothing in this Act—

(1) abridges the rights of any property owner (whether public or private), including the right to refrain from participating in any plan, project, program, or activity conducted within the Heritage Area;

(2) requires any property owner to permit public access (including access by Federal, State, or local agencies) to the property of the property owner, or to modify public access or use of property of the property owner under any other Federal, State, or local law;

(3) alters any duly adopted land use regulation, approved land use plan, or other regulatory authority of any Federal, State, or local agency, or conveys any land use or other regulatory authority to the local coordinating entity;

(4) authorizes or implies the reservation or appropriation of water or water rights;

(5) affects the licensing or relicensing of facilities by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission within the proposed Heritage Area or upstream or downstream from the proposed Heritage Area on the Susquehanna River, including FERC Project No. 405-104;

(6) diminishes the authority of the State to manage fish and wildlife, including the regulation of fishing and hunting within the Heritage Area; or

(7) creates any liability, or affects any liability under any other law, of any private property owner with respect to any person injured on the private property.

SEC. 8. EVALUATION; REPORT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 3 years before the date specified under section 9, the Secretary shall—

(1) conduct an evaluation of the accomplishments of the Heritage Area; and

(2) prepare a report in accordance with subsection (c).

(b) **EVALUATION.**—An evaluation conducted under subsection (a)(1) shall—

(1) assess the progress of the local coordinating entity with respect to—

(A) accomplishing the purposes of this Act for the Heritage Area; and

(B) achieving the goals and objectives of the approved management plan for the Heritage Area;

(2) analyze the Federal, State, local, and private investments in the Heritage Area to determine the leverage and impact of the investments; and

(3) review the management structure, partnership relationships, and funding of the Heritage Area for purposes of identifying the critical components for sustainability of the Heritage Area.

(c) **REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Based on the evaluation conducted under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall prepare a report that includes recommendations for the future role of the National Park Service, if any, with respect to the Heritage Area.

(2) **SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.**—On completion of the report, the Secretary shall submit the report to—

(A) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 9. TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.

The authority of the Secretary to provide assistance under this Act terminates on the date that is 15 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days 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 Utah?

There was no objection.

□ 1700

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER), the author of this particular bill.

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding, but, more importantly, for moving this bill through committee and allowing it to be brought up for a vote today on the floor.

I rise today as the lead sponsor of H.R. 2991, the Susquehanna National Heritage Area Act. I am glad the House is taking up this important bill with bipartisan support from the Pennsylvania delegation.

The concept of the bill is simple. It would make two counties in Pennsylvania, Lancaster and York Counties, both located in south central Pennsylvania, a national heritage area.

National heritage areas are a congressional designation where “natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape arising from human activity shaped by geography,” which describes this area very well. According to the National Park Service, there are currently 49 national heritage areas in 32 States.

I am very proud of the natural beauty that we find in our Pennsylvania communities, particularly in these two counties. We want to ensure we maintain that safe and clean environment into the future for residents and visitors.

The Susquehanna River and its surrounding landscape have played a starring role in American history. Our region's heritage reflects events and causes that exemplify the American experience, many flowing from the central historical role of the river.

Along the Susquehanna, a tradition of public and private collaboration has

helped our region prosper from heritage and outdoor tourism, and this national heritage area designation will attract more visitors, stimulate our local economy, and preserve natural resources and historical landmarks.

I want to thank the countless local officials and Members of Congress who have worked on this legislation for many years. Without their tireless work and the sustained input and support from the residents of York and Lancaster Counties, we would not be here right now. This was a bottom-up effort led by grassroots support from these communities.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a list of the dozens of local organizations that support this legislation.

The following local organizations support the Susquehanna National Heritage Area Act:

Amishview Inn & Suites/Miller's Smorgasbord/Plain & Fancy Farm; Borough of Columbia; Bube's Brewery; Colony Packaging & Machine; Downtown Inc.; Discover Lancaster; Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County; Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County; Historic York, Inc.; Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry; Lancaster County Board of Commissioners; Lancaster County Conservancy; Lancaster County Parks & Recreation; Lancaster County Planning Commission; Lancaster Farmland Trust; Landis Valley Museum.

LancasterHistory.org; Long Level Marina; Northern York County Historical & Preservation Society; PPL Corporation; Pennsylvania State Grange; Preservation Pennsylvania; Rivertownes PA USA; Shank's Mare Outfitters; Susquehanna Glass; Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce; York County Board of Commissioners; York County Convention & Visitors Bureau; York County Department of Parks & Recreation; York County Economic Alliance; York County History Center.

Mr. SMUCKER. Again, I urge passage of H.R. 2991.

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

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill to establish the Susquehanna National Heritage Area in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Seen as "a new kind of national park" that leverages public-private partnerships with a focus on regional economic development, the first national heritage area was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan in 1984. Since then, Congress has authorized many successful heritage areas throughout the country, and this model makes a lot of sense for certain regions. However, it has been a while since the House passed a standalone bill to establish a new national heritage area, so this is an encouraging sign.

We appreciate the renewed interest in national heritage areas, particularly since some of my fellow Democratic colleagues have introduced heritage area proposals. We are eager to bring those proposals forward as well.

That said, this is a good bill, and I encourage my colleagues to support its adoption. The communities of Lancaster and York Counties have clearly demonstrated that their region de-

serves recognition as a national heritage area. I would like to congratulate Representative SMUCKER for his leadership on this proposal and Chairman BISHOP for guiding this bill to the floor.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am in favor of this particular bill. Heritage areas have been, for us, somewhat problematic in the past. There have been some of those who have looked simply on the Federal Government as a deep pocket to be robbed and used year after year after year. Some of them have ignored private property rights. Some of them have actually superseded legal governments' prerogatives and initiatives.

In each of these areas, Mr. SMUCKER has done an incredibly good job to make sure those problems will not exist. The idea of simply being a funnel for money is not necessarily a part of this particular bill, and he has specifically included the rights of property protection in this bill.

What Mr. SMUCKER has done here is a national heritage area done the right way for the right purpose and the right intent, and I hope, because of the way he has done that, it will not tend to be a problem in the future as heritage areas are re-looked at and renewed at some particular point. I want to commend him not only for taking up the specific issue that is important to his area, but for doing it the right way. That is why I am very happy to support this particular piece of legislation.

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

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, again, I encourage support for this bill, and having no further speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask my fellow Members to vote "yes" on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2991, 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. BISHOP of Utah. 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.

SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY OF JAMES WELDON JOHNSON BIRTHPLACE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5005) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special re-

source study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the birthplace of James Weldon Johnson in Jacksonville, Florida, as a unit of the National Park System.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5005

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

SECTION 1. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY OF JAMES WELDON JOHNSON BIRTH- PLACE.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the birthplace of James Weldon Johnson located at Adams & Lee Street in Jacksonville, Florida, as a unit of the National Park System.

(b) STUDY REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall conduct the study in accordance with section 100507 of title 54, United States Code.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

(1) the results of the study; and

(2) any recommendations of the Secretary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This is a fairly significant but straightforward bill. It simply is asking for a study on the potential of including James Weldon Johnson's birthplace as part of our national park system.

Mr. Johnson was a leader in the civil rights movement of his time. He had many talents. He was a diplomat, executive director of the NAACP, the first African to be a member of The Florida Bar. He has also written songs.

Having a special place in history, it is appropriate that we simply direct the National Park Service to investigate the possibility of adding this to the historical sites of significance within the Park Service system.

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

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LAWSON).

Mr. LAWSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman

BISHOP for moving this fine bill through his committee.

James Weldon Johnson was born in 1871 in Jacksonville. This is very significant and probably should have been done many years ago for his contributions to education and the accomplishments he was able to make throughout his life.

He also was not only the first African American admitted to The Florida Bar but also the first African American to teach at New York University. I think most significant was that he was appointed by President Roosevelt to serve as a dignitary to Venezuela and Nigeria. His accomplishments are revered by everyone in the United States.

He was a great writer. In fact, when he wrote "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing," he wrote it to celebrate President Lincoln's birthday. His brother later put it into lyrics. It was adopted by the NAACP as the Negro national anthem.

Ever since I was small, we would hear "Lift Ev'ry Voice," "Lift Ev'ry Voice." Little did we know that "Lift Ev'ry Voice" would be presented at every festivity and graduation throughout America, at football games and everywhere, because of Mr. Johnson's contributions.

I feel very honored to have this historic site among our Park Service so people can know the history of James Weldon Johnson, not only in the Jacksonville community but throughout America. I think it would be fitting that many people have the opportunity to visit his birthplace to see the contributions he has made.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, Representative LAWSON's bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability of establishing the birthplace of James Weldon Johnson, located in Jacksonville, Florida, as a unit of the National Park System.

James Weldon Johnson was born in Jacksonville to immigrant parents from the Bahamas. He went on to become a respected lawyer, educator, and writer.

President Theodore Roosevelt appointed James Weldon Johnson as U.S. Consul to Venezuela and Nicaragua during the early 1900's.

I applaud my colleague Representative LAWSON for introducing legislation to honor the first African American executive secretary of the NAACP.

I support passage of H.R. 5005.

Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman has no further speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5005.

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. BISHOP of Utah. 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.

CAMP NELSON HERITAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5655) to establish the Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument in the State of Kentucky as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5655

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) MAP.—The term "Map" means the map entitled "Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument Nicholasville, Kentucky", numbered 532/144,148, and dated April 2018.

(2) MONUMENT.—The term "Monument" means the Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument established by section 3(a).

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF CAMP NELSON HERITAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), there is established, as a unit of the National Park System, the Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument in the State of Kentucky, to preserve, protect, and interpret for the benefit of present and future generations, the nationally significant historic resources of Camp Nelson and its role in the American Civil War, Reconstruction, and African American history and civil rights.

(2) CONDITIONS.—The Monument shall not be established until after the Secretary—

(A) has entered into a written agreement with the owner of any private or non-Federal land within the Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument boundary as depicted on the Map providing that such property shall be donated to the United States for inclusion in the Monument to be managed consistently with the purposes of the Monument; and

(B) has determined that sufficient land or interests in land have been acquired within the boundary of the Monument to constitute a manageable unit.

(b) BOUNDARIES.—The boundaries of the Monument shall be the boundaries generally depicted on the Map.

(c) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The Map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(d) ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may only acquire any land or interest in land located within the boundary of the Monument by—

- (1) donation;
- (2) purchase with donated funds; or
- (3) exchange.

(e) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer the Monument in accordance with—

(A) this Act; and

(B) the laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including—

(i) section 100101(a), chapter 1003, and sections 100751(a), 100752, 100753, and 102101 of title 54, United States Code; and

(ii) chapter 3201 of title 54, United States Code.

(2) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available to the Secretary for this purpose, the Secretary shall prepare a general management plan for the Monument in accordance with section 100502 of title 54, United States Code.

(B) SUBMIT TO CONGRESS.—On completion of the general management plan, the Secretary shall submit it to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(f) PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTION.—No private property or non-Federal public property shall be managed as part of the Monument without the written consent of the owner of such property.

(g) NO BUFFER ZONES.—Nothing in this Act, the establishment of the Monument, or the management of the Monument shall be construed to create buffer zones outside of the Monument. The fact that an activity or use can be seen, heard, or detected from within the Monument shall not preclude the conduct of that activity or use outside of the Monument.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR), whose bill this is. It is an excellent piece of legislation.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5655, the Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument Act, which would establish the Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument in Jessamine County, Kentucky, as a unit of the National Park Service system.

I would like to especially thank the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP), chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, for his support of this legislation and for guiding us through this process and bringing it to the House floor.

Throughout my time in Congress, Mr. Speaker, I fought to bring national attention and recognition to Camp Nelson, a site that has the ability to unite our Nation and inspire a greater understanding and appreciation for Civil War history, African American history, and a compelling story of the struggle for freedom.

Camp Nelson was founded in 1863 as a Union Army supply depot, training center, and hospital for the Federal Armies in Kentucky and Tennessee. The camp, located in southern Jessamine County, Kentucky, covered 4,000 acres, with over 300 buildings and fortifications. It housed 2,000 to 8,000 troops, over 1,000 civilian employees, and, after 1864, over 3,000 African American refugees. The existing site contains several important Civil War resources that demonstrate the cultural and historical themes prominent at the time.

The most significant aspect of Camp Nelson's history was its role as the third largest recruitment and training center for U.S. Colored Troops and home to many of their families. Because of its proximity to the Confederate States, African American men fled to Camp Nelson to enlist and escape slavery. Because the Emancipation Proclamation did not apply to Kentucky, a slaveholding border State not part of the Confederacy, Camp Nelson represented for a time the only avenue for Kentucky slaves to achieve emancipation.

□ 1715

By the time the 13th Amendment was ratified and ended slavery in 1865, 70 percent of Kentucky slaves had already been emancipated, largely in part because of the efforts made at Camp Nelson. Today, the site at Camp Nelson retains rich archeological evidence, including several earthen fortifications and other original landscape features dating back to the Civil War encampment.

Camp Nelson is recognized as a National Historic Landmark, a key requirement in the process of being included as a unit of the National Park System. It is also part of the Civil War Discovery Trail and the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.

Additionally, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke has recommended that this site become a national monument. I want to thank Secretary Zinke for his personal attention to this effort and for his support and recommending to the President designating Camp Nelson as part of the National Park Service.

Camp Nelson has proven its ability to unite the people not just of Jessamine County and the Commonwealth of Kentucky, but of the Nation as a whole. Even further, it has the potential to convey nationally significant information about the survival and persistence of African American soldiers and their families as they fought for their freedom.

Over the past few years, I have met with stakeholders and descendants of those who lived and worked at Camp Nelson. It is apparent that this site, based on their testimonies, is important not only to the history of the Commonwealth, but to the history of our Nation.

I would like to thank these local stakeholders who shared their stories

and educated me and my staff about the significant contributions of this historical site. Their advocacy and support effectively demonstrated the positive local sentiment about Camp Nelson.

Specifically, I would like to thank Reverend Robert Gates, Sr., the pastor of the historic First Baptist Church of Camp Nelson. His great-great-grandfather on his mother's side was the Sergeant Reverend Jesse Tull, Sr., who was a member of Company C, 119th U.S. Colored Infantry and made great contributions at Camp Nelson. Also, Reverend Moses Lee Radford, pastor of the Nicholasville First Baptist Church; the County Judge Executive David West; former County Judge Executive Cassidy, who was a major contributor to acquiring the land for the county and preserving the history there; Dr. Stephen McBride, director of interpretation and archeology at Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park; and Mrs. Mary Kozak, special projects director for Jessamine County, Kentucky, who has worked tirelessly for about 20 years preserving the history of Camp Nelson.

I also want to thank several others who contributed greatly to our efforts and assisted in gaining support for this effort, including Governor Matt Bevin; the Jessamine County Fiscal Court; the Lexington-Fayette NAACP chapter; the Jessamine Chamber of Commerce; the Kentucky Historical Society; and my colleague Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE from Ohio, among others.

It is one of my goals in Congress to make Camp Nelson a place where the entire Nation can experience the rich history it has to offer and appreciate the amazing story it tells about the long march toward freedom for African Americans in Kentucky and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5655 designates the Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument in Kentucky to preserve the historic resources of Camp Nelson and its role in the American Civil War.

Camp Nelson was founded and constructed by Major General Ambrose Burnside. The camp served as a supply depot for the Union Army during the Civil War and supported frontline efforts against the Confederacy. Camp Nelson was different from other military outposts because it was one of the largest recruitment and training centers for African American soldiers during the Civil War. In fact, thousands of slaves who fled to the camp with their families later enlisted to protect the freedoms we enjoy today.

Mr. Speaker, I support passage of this legislation. Having no further speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, this, to me, is an important piece of legislation, not just for

the history of it, as an old history teacher, but this Camp Nelson is currently a county park known as the Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park. In 2008, it was added to the National Park Service's National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. In 2013, it was designated as a National Historic Landmark.

More important than that, this is one of those areas which deserves to be a national monument, and what we are doing is the way national monuments should be created in this country. It has been an open process. We have had hearings. We have had open debate. There has been input from the local community. This is how Congress should be creating national monuments, not only now but in the future as well. So I am very grateful for that.

It is a bill that has been properly drafted and properly vetted, and we are going through the process in the way the Constitution required for Congress to make these kinds of designations. For that reason, I am extremely proud of this particular piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Kentucky for all the effort and the work he has put into doing this the right way. I urge my colleagues to support this particular measure.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5655.

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. BISHOP of Utah. 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.

ROUTE 66 NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL DESIGNATION ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 801) to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Route 66 National Historic Trail, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 801

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Route 66 National Historic Trail Designation Act".

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF THE ROUTE 66 NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL.

Section 5(a) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(31) ROUTE 66 NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Route 66 National Historic Trail, a trail that includes all the alignments of U.S. Highway 66 in existence between

1926 and 1985, extending along a route of approximately 2,400 miles from Chicago, Illinois, to Santa Monica, California, as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Route 66 National Historic Trail, Proposed Route', numbered P26/141.279, and dated December 2017.

“(B) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map described in subparagraph (A) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

“(C) ADMINISTRATION.—The Route 66 National Historic Trail shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service. Such administration shall be conducted in a manner that respects and maintains the idiosyncratic nature of the Route 66 National Historic Trail.

“(D) LAND ACQUISITION.—The United States may not acquire for the Route 66 National Historic Trail any land or interest in land—

“(i) outside the exterior boundary of any federally managed area without the consent of the owner of the land or interest in land; or

“(ii) that extends more than an average of one-quarter of a mile on either side of the trail.

“(E) NO BUFFER ZONE CREATED.—Nothing in this Act, the acquisition of the land or an interest in land authorized by this Act, or the management plan for the Route 66 National Historic Trail shall be construed to create buffer zones outside of the Trail. That activities or uses can be seen, heard, or detected from the acquired land shall not preclude, limit, control, regulate, or determine the conduct or management of activities or uses outside of the trail.

“(F) ENERGY.—Nothing in this Act, the acquisition of land or an interest in land authorized by this Act, or the management plan for the Route 66 National Historic Trail shall prohibit, hinder, or disrupt the development, production, or transmission of energy.

“(G) EMINENT DOMAIN OR CONDEMNATION.—In carrying out this Act, the Secretary of the Interior may not use eminent domain or condemnation.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days 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 Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD), despite the fact that he used to be a member of our committee and abandoned us, for which he will never be forgiven.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, as a former member of the Committee on Natural Resources, I want to thank the gentleman for his support, his assistance, and his friendship in helping to bring H.R. 801 to the floor here today.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 801 is the Route 66 National Historic Trail Designation Act, and we are happy to have it here today on this floor. I also want to thank my friend and Democratic col-

league, Congresswoman GRACE NAPOLITANO of California, for introducing this legislation along with me. Through our combined efforts, we have successfully built strong bipartisan support for this particular bill.

I am proud to represent Illinois' 18th Congressional District in Congress, especially given its rich American history. H.R. 801 focuses on a small piece of that, Route 66, also commonly known or referred to as the Main Street of America or the Mother Road.

As many know, Route 66 spans eight States and runs from Illinois to California. Also of note, Route 66 will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2026. In my district, Route 66 passes through places like Lexington, Illinois; Towanda; Bloomington-Normal; Atlanta; Lincoln; Elkhart; Springfield; and stretches into the northern part of our State near Chicago.

Route 66's impact on small, rural communities in Illinois and across the country cannot be understated. For example, both Atlanta, Illinois, and Springfield, Illinois, have benefited from the recent renewed emphasis on Route 66. In Atlanta, we have seen an increase in tourism to the area. As a result, we have had an increase in sales tax revenue. In Springfield, which is our State capital, we have seen revitalization in several parts of town.

These are just two examples, but I can say with confidence that the highway's significance has become a key driver of attracting both domestic and international tourism as well as local economic activity for the areas and States that many of us in Congress represent.

On any given day, you will find people flying into Chicago, into O'Hare Airport, and renting motorcycles or cars or getting on buses and driving along this iconic roadway through America.

It should also be known that the Federal Government already recognizes the importance of Route 66. The highway currently benefits from the National Park Service's Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program, but this program is scheduled to sunset in 2019.

My legislation, H.R. 801, is simple and straightforward and improves upon current efforts. If signed into law, it will designate Route 66 as a national historic trail, ensuring that the National Park Service will have the authority to assist and support States and local communities in preserving, promoting, and economically developing Route 66 for generations to come.

Importantly, in 1995, a Route 66 special resource study was conducted by the National Park Service, as authorized by Congress. The study determined that Route 66 meets the criteria in the National Trails System Act for designation as a national historic trail.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD 10 letters of support from Route 66 associations and organizations across the country which back the legislation.

OCTOBER 11, 2016.

Re Route 66: The Road Ahead Partnership

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: I am pleased to write this letter of endorsement on behalf of the Route 66 Alliance in support of Route 66 being designated as a National Historic Trail.

The Route 66 Alliance, based in Tulsa, Oklahoma, is committed to the preservation and marketing of the entire 2,448 miles of historic Route 66. Its key role in the development of the United States is beyond question. And efforts in Tulsa have begun in earnest to highlight this iconic road, and the important role that Tulsa played in its development.

Recently, the Mayor of Tulsa established a Route 66 Commission to oversee the enhancement, development, visitor experience, and revitalization of the authentic Route 66, twenty-four miles of which pass through Tulsa County. This Commission, which I chair, is comprised of City Councilors, County Commissioners, business owners, Main Street Program directors, and other passionate supporters of the Mother Road, all committed to maintaining and enhancing this culturally significant treasure.

Since 1999, when the National Park Service established the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program, tremendous progress has been made in revitalizing significant historic properties all along the road. This in turn has led to increased tourism, both national and international, as well as enhanced economic vitality in these communities.

Despite its reauthorization by Congress in 2009, the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program is scheduled to sunset in 2019. Establishing Route 66 as a National Historic Trail will ensure a federal focus that will continue the work of the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,

KEN BUSBY,
Executive Director & CEO.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2016.

This letter is to indicate the National Historic Route 66 Federation's support for the designation of Route 66 as a National Historic Trail.

Beginning in the 1920s, Route 66 built a robust economy in the regions it passed through by serving the travelling public with restaurants, motels, gas stations, stores and entertainment. However, it was doomed by progress. In the mid 1950s, it began to be replaced by interstate highways. By the mid 1980s it was no longer a Federal highway. Motorists chose the multi-lane, high speed interstates over the two lane, slower speed highway, and numerous businesses—even entire towns—closed down.

Then, in 1999, the National Park Service created the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program to revitalize and promote the historic road. This program has been an important catalyst for reinvigorating the Route 66 Corridor. It has resulted in the restoration of many historic properties, increased tourism and contributed to significant economic growth.

The continuation of these economic benefits may be in jeopardy, however. Despite its reauthorization by Congress in 2009, the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program is scheduled to sunset in 2019.

Securing National Historic Trail designation will permanently ensure a federal focus on Route 66 that will continue the work of the Corridor Preservation Program. A Route 66 National Historic Trail will promote collaboration among the communities, businesses, non-profit organizations, and state

agencies to help ensure visitors have the best experience possible when traveling Route 66.

Sincerely,

DAVID KNUDSON,
Executive Director.

OCTOBER 1, 2016.

The Route 66 Association of Illinois supports the designation of Route 66 as a National Historic Trail. This designation will provide much needed support to preserve the iconic features of Route 66 and maximize the benefits available to Heritage tourism.

In 1999 the National Park Service created the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program to revitalize and promote this historic road. This program has been a significant catalyst for reinvigorating the Route 66 Corridor, and this has assisted with the domestic and international tourism destination.

Illinois has benefitted from 26 of these grants since 2001. These grants, totaling over \$248,000.00 were all matching grants that benefitted businesses and communities throughout the entire state.

The continuation of these economic benefits is in jeopardy. The Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program is scheduled to sunset (end) in 2019. Securing the National Historic Trail designation will permanently ensure a federal focus on Route 66 that will continue the work of The Corridor Preservation program. A Route 66 National Historic Trail will promote collaboration among the communities, non-profit organizations, and state agencies that help ensure visitors have the best experience possible when traveling Route 66 to discover America. The National Trail will provide a cohesive experience along the route, assisted by the individual state associations and byway programs.

The Route 66 Association of Illinois strongly supports this designation.

CATHIE STEVANOVICH,
President, Route 66 Association of Illinois.

ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI,
February 6, 2017.

The Route 66 Association of Missouri supports the designation of Route 66 as a National Historic Trail at this time but reserves the right to amend our decision when other details become available. This designation will provide much needed support to preserve the iconic features of 66 and maximize the benefits available through heritage tourism.

Route 66 has served as an economic engine since the 1920s. It brought significant commerce in serving the travelling public with restaurants, motels, gas stations, and merchandise. Unfortunately, it was eventually replaced with the interstate system. As a result, many communities, businesses, attractions, and individuals suffered economic loss. In 1999 Congress created the Corridor Preservation Program to help revitalize and promote this historic road. This program has been a significant catalyst for reinvigorating Route 66, helping reinvent the road as a domestic and international tourism destination.

The Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program is scheduled to sunset in 2019. Securing National Historic Trail designation will permanently ensure a Federal focus on Route 66 that will help preserve and promote Route 66 and its historic role in developing America through strong partnerships between the National Park Service and the communities, non-profit organizations, and state organizations along this important historic road."

National Historic Trail designation for Route 66 will be of significant economic and cultural benefit. Accordingly, the Route 66 Association of Missouri supports the des-

ignation of Route 66 as a National Historic Trail.

Sincerely,

TOMMY G. PIKE,
President.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2016.

The Kansas Historic Route 66 Association supports the designation of Route 66 as a National Historic Trail. This designation will provide much needed support to preserve the iconic features of Route 66 and maximize the benefits available through heritage tourism.

Route 66 has served as a true economic engine since the 1920s. First it brought significant commerce in serving the travelling public with restaurants, motels, gas stations, and merchandise. Unfortunately, it was soon replaced with the interstate system and the communities that are located along the 13.2 mile stretch in Kansas such as Galena, Riverton and Baxter Springs suffered economic loss as a result. However, in 1999 the National Park Service created the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program to revitalize and promote this historic road. This program has been a significant catalyst for reinvigorating the Route 66 Corridor, reinventing the road as a domestic and international tourism destination.

This has resulted in:

Tourism visits both foreign and domestic
Sales tax revenue

Grants for revitalization of the Phillips 66 Visitor Center, Rainbow Bridge and the Galena Viaduct

Established museum or tourism center

Opened new businesses like Cars on the Route, Angels on the Route and Café on the Route

Festivals

Bus tours, Motorcycle tours and Bicycle tours

Protecting our historic resources, establishing Historical Districts and placing Icons on Historical registers

The continuation of these economic benefits may be in jeopardy, however. Despite its reauthorization by Congress in 2009, the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program is scheduled to sunset in 2019. Securing National Historic Trail designation will permanently ensure a federal focus on Route 66 that will continue the work of the Corridor Preservation Program. A Route 66 National Historic Trail will promote collaboration among the communities, non-profit organizations, and state agencies that help ensure visitors have the best experience possible when traveling Route 66 to discover America.

National Historic Trail designation for Route 66 will be of significant benefit to our 13.2 miles of Route 66 in Kansas and the communities along that route. We strongly support designation of Route 66 as a National Historic Trail.

Sincerely,

RENEE CHARLES,
*President, Kansas Historic
Route 66 Association.*

APRIL 28, 2017.

The New Mexico Route 66 Association strongly supports the designation of Route 66 as a National Historic Trail Memorializing Route 66 as a National Historic Trail will provide much needed support to preserve and promote iconic features of Route 66 in New Mexico, as well as across the other seven states through which the Mother Road runs.

In 1999, the U S. Congress authorized the National Park Service to create the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program to revitalize and promote this historic road This Corridor Preservation Program has been a significant catalyst for reinvigorating the Route 66 Corridor, helping to reinvent the road as a do-

mestic and international tourism destination. However, with that program scheduled to sunset in 2019, the virtually unanimous congressional support for the internationally popular road will not be sustained. Although Congress reauthorized the ten-year Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program in 2009, we are told that another reauthorization is unlikely. The National Historic Trails program, with assured permanent funding and connection with many other historic corridors will sustain federal focus and provide a far more secure and more broadly supportive haven.

We are totally dedicated to the preservation, promotion, and enjoyment of the historic corridor in New Mexico and are committed to helping insure that National Historic Trail designation will continue the work of the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program. In the process, a Route 66 National Historic Trail will promote collaboration among communities, non-profit organizations, and state organizations such as our New Mexico Route 66 Association that help preserve and promote Route 66.

Warmly,

MELISSA LEA BEASLEY.

OCTOBER 3, 2016.

The Oklahoma Route 66 Association supports the designation of Route 66 as a National Historic Trail. This designation will provide much needed support to preserve the iconic features of Route 66 and maximize the benefits available through heritage tourism.

Route 66 has served as a true economic engine since the 1920s. First it brought significant commerce in serving the travelling public with restaurants, motels, gas stations, and merchandise. Unfortunately, it was soon replaced with the interstate system and Oklahoma Route 66 communities suffered economic loss as a result. However, in 1999 the National Park Service created the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program to revitalize and promote this historic road. This program has been a significant catalyst for reinvigorating the Route 66 Corridor, reinventing the road as a domestic and international tourism destination.

This has resulted in

Overnight tourism visits

Sales tax revenue

Grants for revitalization of many places and signs

Bus tours

Protecting our historic resources

Assisted city governments with revitalization projects

The continuation of these economic benefits may be in jeopardy. Despite its reauthorization by Congress in 2009, the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program is scheduled to sunset in 2019. Securing National Historic Trail designation will permanently ensure a federal focus on Route 66 that will continue the work of the Corridor Preservation Program. A Route 66 National Historic Trail will promote collaboration among the communities, non-profit organizations, and state agencies that help ensure visitors have the best experience possible when traveling Route 66 to discover America. It also creates an updated version of the trails program with the inclusion of a more modern-day trail.

National Historic Trail designation for Route 66 will be of significant benefit to the Oklahoma Route 66 Association. We strongly support designation of Route 66 as a National Historic Trail.

Sincerely,

BRAD NICKSON,
*President,
Oklahoma Route 66 Association.*

[From Arizona's Historic Route 66 National Scenic Byway Program, May 30, 2017]

SUPPORT FOR THE ROUTE 66 NATIONAL TRAILS INITIATIVE

On behalf of the Arizona Historic Route 66 National Scenic Byway Program, a Route 66 community's grass-roots collaborative, I appreciate this opportunity to show support for the Historic Route 66 National Trails Initiative. We believe this all-important, non-partisan initiative is key to the successful preservation, protection, and promotion of America's most iconic route into the future. We appreciate you sharing our letter of support with the appropriate entities.

As you know, Historic Route 66, dotted with mom and pop businesses, neon signs, and eclectic roadside attractions tells the story of America's historical move west. Contrasted with the other highways of its day, the creation of this 2,448-mile "super highway" in 1926 did not follow a traditionally linear course. Instead its diagonal path linked hundreds of rural communities across eight states and became the principal east-west artery making it the Main Street of America. Like the country that the road traversed, history was made and imprints were left by the Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression, the war years, and the road trips of the fifties and sixties.

Recognizing the significance of Route 66 as an economic driver and historic treasure, in 1999 the U.S. Congress authorized the National Park Service to create the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program. This program has guided the eight states through historic preservation projects, and reestablishing the Route as a one-of-a-kind travel experience. It has also opened lines of communication between communities as well as between states and other key component for future successes.

Gratefully Congress reauthorized the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program in 2009, but this stand-alone program is once again due to end in 2019 and there is still much work to be done. Exploring a more secure future for Historic Route 66, it became clear early on that Route 66 would be a perfect addition to the National Historic Trails Program adding an American treasure to the collection, and opening new avenues for continued historic preservation and promotion of Route 66. The Arizona National Scenic Byway Program is committed to making this important initiative become a reality for the future of our communities and attractions.

SHARLENE FOUSER,
Byway Coordinator,
Arizona's Historic
Route 66 All-American Road.

SEPTEMBER 26, 2016.

The Old Route 66 Association of Texas supports the designation of Route 66 as a National Historic Trail. This designation will provide much needed support to preserve the iconic features of Route 66 and maximize the benefits available through heritage tourism.

Route 66 has served as a true economic engine since the 1920s but when it was replaced with the interstate system in the 1970s, the Texas Panhandle from Shamrock to Glenrio was changed forever.

However, in 1999 the National Park Service created the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program to revitalize and promote this historic road. This program has been a significant catalyst for reinvigorating the Route 66 Corridor, reinventing the road as a domestic and international tourism destination.

For Texas' stretch of Route 66 this has resulted in—

increased visitation, especially from international tourists.

increased local and state sales tax revenue. new and reopened businesses along the route.

regional and national festivals along the route.

bus tours including Texas in their Route 66 itineraries.

cooperative marketing amongst federal, state and local organizations.

increased awareness of protecting our historic Route 66 resources.

The continuation of these economic benefits may be in jeopardy, however. Despite reauthorization by Congress in 2009, the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program is scheduled to sunset in 2019. Securing National Historic Trail designation will permanently ensure a federal focus on Route 66 that will continue the work of the Corridor Preservation Program. A Route 66 National Historic Trail will promote collaboration among the communities, non-profit organizations, and state agencies that help ensure visitors have the best experience possible when traveling Route 66 to discover America.

National Historic Trail designation for Route 66 will be of significant benefit to the Texas Panhandle. The Old Route 66 Association of Texas strongly supports this designation.

Sincerely,

DORA MERONEY,
President,
Old Route 66 Association of Texas.

OCTOBER 1, 2016.

The California Historic Route 66 Association strongly supports the designation of Route 66 as a National Historic Trail. This national commemoration will provide much needed support for preserving and promoting iconic features of Route 66 in California, as well as across the other seven states through which the Mother Road passes.

In 1999, the U.S. Congress authorized the National Park Service to create the Route 66 Corridor or Preservation Program to revitalize and promote this historic road. This program has been a significant catalyst for reinvigorating the Route 66 Corridor, helping to reinvent the road as a domestic and international tourism destination.

However, with that program scheduled to sunset in 2019, the virtually unanimous congressional support for the internationally popular road will not be sustained. Although Congress reauthorized the ten-year Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program in 2009, we are told that another reauthorization is unlikely. The National Historic Trails program, with assured permanent funding and connection with many other historic corridors will sustain federal focus and provide a far more secure and more broadly supportive haven.

We are totally dedicated to the preservation, promotion, and enjoyment of the historic corridor in California and are committed to helping insure that National Historic Trail designation will continue the work of the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program. In the process, a Route 66 National Historic Trail will promote collaboration among communities, non-profit organizations, and state organizations such as our California Historic Route 66 Association that help preserve and promote Route 66.

Sincerely,

GLEN DUNCAN,
President,
California Historic Route 66 Association.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, with that, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) will control the rest of the debate for the minority.

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 801, which establishes Route 66 as the 20th national historic trail as part of the National Trails System.

I want to thank my colleague, Representative LAHOOD, for introducing the legislation and letting me be a cosponsor. I want to thank Chairman BISHOP and Ranking Member GRIJALVA for their support in moving this bill through the committee.

Mr. Speaker, as Mr. LAHOOD stated, it is an economic boon for the cities that have Route 66. It runs east and west through my district, known as Foothill Boulevard and Huntington Drive, in the cities of La Verne, San Dimas, Azusa, Duarte, and Monrovia. In fact, one of my cities is already highlighting and doing celebrations of Route 66. At swap meets, they are already selling Route 66 T-shirts and paraphernalia.

Our local restaurants, our shops, our businesses, like so many others dotting the highway from the heartland to the West Coast, provide rest breaks for travelers, allowing them to sample the local flavors of communities that are proud to be connected by the iconic road.

H.R. 801 is needed because the current preservation under the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program is expiring in 2019. So we need to, under H.R. 801, continue to recognize and promote Route 66 through the national historic trail designation, which will bring Federal resources for the rehabilitation and improvement of this Mother Road. It runs from Chicago all the way to Santa Monica in the State of California.

We have cities that are very excited about being able to celebrate it in the 100th year. This Federal assistance will be used in coordination with cities and stakeholders for the preservation of property, artifacts, memorabilia, and other historical items.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 801, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I want to add my support to this particular bill. We are talking about 2,400 miles going from Chicago to Santa Monica. It was, at one time, called the Main Street of America. It is unique in American history.

I was just talking to the sponsor of this particular piece of legislation who does not remember the TV show. I still remember "Route 66" as one of my favorite shows. I still want to go on that route and in the same Corvette that they had.

Mr. Speaker, if others are too young to remember that, learn history. That is why we are history teachers around here.

I will yield to Mrs. NAPOLITANO to ask if she remembers the show.

□ 1730

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, yes, I do. Not only that, but I remember the song that included Route 66. He will remember that, if he is young enough.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, it is running through my head right now.

This is a good piece of legislation. This is more than just nostalgia. This actually helps preserve our history. It is the right thing to do. I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 801, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FREE VETERANS FROM FEES ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3997) to waive the application fee for any special use permit for veterans demonstrations and special events at war memorials on Federal land, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3997

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Free Veterans from Fees Act".

SEC. 2. WAIVER OF SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION FEE FOR VETERANS DEMONSTRATIONS AND SPECIAL EVENTS.

(a) **WAIVER.**—*The application fee for any special use permit solely for a veterans demonstration or special event at war memorials on Federal land shall be waived.*

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—*In this section:*

(1) **DEMONSTRATION; SPECIAL EVENT.**—*The terms "demonstration" and "special event" have the meaning given those terms in section 7.96 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations.*

(2) **VETERAN.**—*The term "veteran" has the meaning given that term in section 101(2) of title 38, United States Code.*

(3) **VETERANS DEMONSTRATION OR SPECIAL EVENT.**—*The term "veterans demonstration or special event" means a demonstration or special event whose primary purpose is to commemorate, or honor either a group of people because of their service as veterans or immediate family members of veterans.*

(4) **WAR MEMORIAL.**—*The term "war memorial" means any tangible object which has been erected or dedicated to commemorate—*

(A) *war, conflict, victory, or peace;*

(B) *casualties who served in, were affected by, or killed as a result of war, conflict, or peace-keeping; or*

(C) *those who died as a result of accident or disease while engaged in military service.*

(c) **APPLICABILITY.**—*This section shall apply to any special use permit application submitted after the date of the enactment of this Act.*

(d) **APPLICABILITY OF EXISTING LAWS.**—*Permit applicants remain subject to all other laws, regulations, and policies regarding the application, issuance and execution of special use permits for a veterans demonstration or special event at war memorials on Federal land.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days 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 Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS), the author of this particular piece of legislation.

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding. I also thank the chairman, as well as members on the Subcommittee on Federal Lands, especially Chairman TOM MCCLINTOCK, for their unanimous support of my bipartisan bill, the Free Veterans from Fees Act. I would also like to thank my colleague, the Congresswoman from Hawaii, TULSI GABBARD, in co-leading this bipartisan effort.

Throughout the year, veteran groups visit our national war memorials to take part in honor buses and honor flights and other commemorations that require special use permits issued by the National Park Service. The permit application requires, without exception, that a fee be submitted along with the completed permit application. Specifically, here in our Nation's Capital, The National Mall charges \$120 for public gatherings and special events. The Free Veterans from Fees Act would waive the application fee associated with special use permits for any veteran demonstration or special event at war memorials on Federal land.

We have a solemn obligation to stand with our veterans. They stood for us. We must stand for them. This simple bill is about fostering a culture in which all veterans are valued for their service and sacrifice to our country. The least we can do is to make it easier for groups of veterans and their families to visit national war memorials so they can honor the contributions of our men and women in uniform.

I have the privilege of serving the many military members and veterans who live and work in western Pennsylvania. Many of these veterans come together to help their fellow veterans and their families by pooling their time, energy, and financial resources to organize bus trips.

In fact, a recent trip from western Pennsylvania happened just this past

month. I had the privilege to welcome these veterans and their families to the World War II Memorial here in Washington, D.C. This honor bus was organized by a remarkable couple, Jerry and Lydian Fisher of Beaver County, who have a heart for service and a real commitment and devotion to these trips since 2006.

Veterans want to help each other, and this is proof. I consider it a privilege to meet the men and women whom Jerry and Lydian bring to Washington. On the most recent trip, we even welcomed a 100-year-old World War II veteran, Charles Wiggins from Wilkesburg.

The men and women who are willing to die for this country should be given every opportunity to commemorate their service, the sacrifices of their fellow servicemembers, and the hardships faced by those left behind. Assessing fees from the very people these memorials were built to honor is unacceptable and unnecessary.

Our veterans were willing to stop at nothing to defend our Nation. We, as a nation, should stop at nothing to ensure our obligation to honor them is fulfilled. Our veterans deserve this legislation. It is just one more simple step to honor them.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3997 waives the special use permit application fees for veterans' demonstrations and special events at national war memorials.

I agree with my colleague. It is time that we recognize that our veterans deserve to be able to use this holy land for special events at national war memorials. This is a commonsense bill that will make it easier for veterans' groups to organize events at national memorials and other public lands.

I thank Mr. BISHOP from the majority for helping us work to ensure that the bill covers Gold Star families. I thank him very much for that.

I urge my colleagues to support the passage of this bill.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, this is a very good piece of legislation.

For those who have served well, to subject them to another application fee is just ridiculous. If there was ever an example of a good idea, a no-brainer piece of legislation, this is it.

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

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. GABBARD).

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, our veterans, our servicemembers, and their families sacrificed greatly in service to our country, with some paying the ultimate price, sacrificing all.

For those who do come home, there are often visible and invisible wounds that they carry with them for a very long time—if not for the rest of their

lives. It is our solemn responsibility as a country to stand by them, to ensure that they receive the care and the services and the respect that they have earned and that they deserve through their service.

So the fact that, today, a veteran or a Gold Star family member who wants to use a national war memorial for a special event—whether it is a vigil, a religious service, a parade, or any other kind of event—is slapped with an application fee by the National Park Service costing anywhere from \$70 to over \$100 is, frankly, unacceptable.

Our war memorials are often a place of healing, a place where our brothers and sisters in uniform, our fellow veterans, gather to remember those whom they served with who never made that trip home, for Gold Star family members to go and pay homage to and share new memories with their loved one that has been lost. This is a gathering place that is so important both for those who have served and those who remember and honor those who have sacrificed everything. It is unacceptable that our Nation's heroes have to pay a fee to honor our fallen brothers and sisters in this way. This legislation is necessary, and we have the opportunity to get it passed today.

I appreciate the leadership of my colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS), someone who I know personally is deeply committed to serving and honoring our veterans and never forgetting the cost of war and who pays the price.

We introduced this legislation to waive the application fee for veterans and Gold Star families applying for a permit at war memorials on Federal land because this legislation honors the special bond between veterans that spans across conflicts and generations that we see displayed in this country, most prominently on Veterans Day and Memorial Day, but something that goes on throughout the year. We must continue to honor this into the future.

This simple change in this legislation will lift this financial and bureaucratic burden that our veterans face as they pay their respects, remember the lives and sacrifices of their friends, and our Gold Star family members of their loved ones.

I want to thank the men and women of the National Park Service who work to make sure that our war memorials are kept up and reflective places for healing, and I thank my colleague for his leadership and the support of the committee to bring this bill to the floor today. I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, we have no more speakers, but may I add that I agree with what Ms. GABBARD said. It is unnecessary to bill any kind of fee to our veterans or the organizations that honor them.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3997, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 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 40 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. REED) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

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. 5005, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 2991, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 5655, by the yeas and nays.

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

SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY OF JAMES WELDON JOHNSON BIRTHPLACE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5005) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the birthplace of James Weldon Johnson in Jacksonville, Florida, as a unit of the National Park System, 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 Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 374, nays 5, not voting 48, as follows:

[Roll No. 231]

YEAS—374

Abraham	Doggett	Kustoff (TN)
Adams	Donovan	Labrador
Aderholt	Doyle, Michael	LaHood
Aguilar	F.	LaMalfa
Allen	Duffy	Lamb
Amodei	Duncan (SC)	Lamborn
Arrington	Dunn	Lance
Babin	Emmer	Langevin
Bacon	Engel	Larsen (WA)
Banks (IN)	Eshoo	Larson (CT)
Barletta	Espallat	Latta
Barr	Estes (KS)	Lawrence
Barton	Esty (CT)	Lawson (FL)
Bera	Evans	Lee
Bergman	Faso	Lesko
Beyer	Ferguson	Levin
Bishop (GA)	Fitzpatrick	Lewis (GA)
Bishop (MI)	Fleischmann	Lewis (MN)
Bishop (UT)	Flores	Lipinski
Black	Fortenberry	LoBiondo
Blackburn	Foster	Loebach
Blum	Fox	Lofgren
Blumenauer	Frankel (FL)	Long
Blunt Rochester	Frelinghuysen	Loudermilk
Bonamici	Fudge	Love
Bost	Gabbard	Lowenthal
Boyle, Brendan	Gallagher	Lowe
F.	Gallego	Lucas
Brady (TX)	Garamendi	Luetkemeyer
Brat	Garrett	Lujan, Ben Ray
Brooks (IN)	Gianforte	Lynch
Brown (MD)	Gibbs	MacArthur
Buchanan	Gohmert	Maloney,
Buck	Goodlatte	Carolyn B.
Bucshon	Gosar	Maloney, Sean
Budd	Gottheimer	Marchant
Burgess	Granger	Marino
Bustos	Graves (GA)	Marshall
Byrne	Graves (LA)	Mast
Calvert	Graves (MO)	Matsui
Capuano	Green, Al	McCarthy
Carbajal	Green, Gene	McCaul
Carson (IN)	Griffith	McClintock
Carter (GA)	Grijalva	McCollum
Carter (TX)	Grothman	McEeachin
Cartwright	Guthrie	McGovern
Castor (FL)	Hanabusa	McHenry
Castro (TX)	Handel	McMorris
Chabot	Harper	Rodgers
Cheney	Hartzler	McSally
Chu, Judy	Hastings	Meadows
Cicilline	Heck	Meeks
Clark (MA)	Hensarling	Meng
Clarke (NY)	Herrera Beutler	Messer
Clay	Hice, Jody B.	Mitchell
Cleaver	Higgins (LA)	Moolenaar
Clyburn	Higgins (NY)	Mooney (WV)
Coffman	Hill	Moore
Cohen	Himes	Moulton
Cole	Holding	Mullin
Collins (GA)	Hollingsworth	Murphy (FL)
Collins (NY)	Hoyer	Nadler
Comer	Hudson	Napolitano
Comstock	Huffman	Neal
Conaway	Huizenga	Newhouse
Connolly	Hultgren	Nolan
Cook	Jackson Lee	Norcross
Cooper	Jayapal	Norman
Correa	Jeffries	Nunes
Costa	Jenkins (KS)	O'Halleran
Costello (PA)	Jenkins (WV)	Olson
Courtney	Johnson (GA)	Pallone
Cramer	Johnson (LA)	Palmer
Crawford	Johnson (OH)	Panetta
Crist	Johnson, E. B.	Pascarell
Crowley	Johnson, Sam	Paulsen
Cuellar	Jordan	Payne
Culberson	Joyce (OH)	Pearce
Curbelo (FL)	Kaptur	Pelosi
Curtis	Katko	Perry
Davidson	Keating	Peters
Davis (CA)	Kelly (IL)	Peterson
Davis, Danny	Kelly (MS)	Pingree
Davis, Rodney	Kelly (PA)	Pittenger
DeFazio	Kennedy	Pocan
DeGette	Khanna	Poe (TX)
Delaney	Kihuen	Poliquin
DeLauro	Kildee	Posey
DelBene	Kilmer	Price (NC)
Demings	Kind	Quigley
DeSantis	King (IA)	Raskin
DeSaulnier	King (NY)	Ratcliffe
DesJarlais	Kinzing	Reed
Deutch	Knight	Reichert
Diaz-Balart	Krishnamoorthi	Renacci
Dingell	Kuster (NH)	Rice (NY)

Rice (SC) Sensenbrenner Upton
 Roe (TN) Serrano Valadao
 Rogers (AL) Sessions Vargas
 Rogers (KY) Sewell (AL) Veasey
 Rooney, Francis Shea-Porter Velázquez
 Rooney, Thomas Shimkus Visclosky
 J. Shuster Wagner
 Ros-Lehtinen Simpson Walberg
 Roskam Sinema Walden
 Ross Smith (NE) Walker
 Rothfus Smith (NJ) Walorski
 Rouzer Smith (TX) Wasserman
 Roybal-Allard Smith (WA) Schultz
 Royce (CA) Smucker Watson Coleman
 Ruiz Soto Weber (TX)
 Ruppertsberger Speier Webster (FL)
 Rush Stefanik Welch
 Russell Stewart Wenstrup
 Rutherford Stivers Westerman
 Ryan (OH) Suozzi Williams
 Sanford Takano Wittman
 Sarbanes Taylor Womack
 Scalise Tenney Woodall
 Schakowsky Thompson (CA) Yarmuth
 Schiff Thompson (MS) Yoder
 Schneider Thompson (PA) Yoho
 Schrader Thornberry Yoho
 Schweikert Tipton Young (AK)
 Scott (VA) Tonko Young (IA)
 Scott, Austin Trott Zeldin
 Scott, David Turner

NAYS—5

Amash Harris Massie
 Biggs Jones

NOT VOTING—48

Barragán Gutiérrez Rokita
 Bass Hunter Rosen
 Beatty Hurd Sánchez
 Bilirakis Issa Sherman
 Brady (PA) Lieu, Ted Sires
 Brooks (AL) Lujan Grisham, Smith (MO)
 Brownley (CA) M. Swallow (CA)
 Butterfield McKinley Titus
 Cárdenas McNerney Torres
 Cummings Noem Tsongas
 Denham O'Rourke Vela
 Duncan (TN) Palazzo Walters, Mimi
 Ellison Perlmutter Walz
 Gaetz Polis Waters, Maxine
 Gomez Richmond Wilson (FL)
 Gonzalez (TX) Roby
 Gowdy Rohrabacher

□ 1855

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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.

Stated for:

Mr. HURD. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 231.

SUSQUEHANNA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BERGMAN). The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2991) to establish the Susquehanna National Heritage Area in the State of Pennsylvania, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) 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 373, nays 9, not voting 45, as follows:

[Roll No. 232]

YEAS—373

Abraham Deutch Kind
 Adams Diaz-Balart King (IA)
 Aderholt Dingell King (NY)
 Aguilera Doggett Kinzinger
 Allen Donovan Knight
 Amodei Doyle, Michael Krishnamoorthi
 Arrington F. Kuster (NH)
 Babin Duffy Kustoff (TN)
 Bacon Duncan (SC) Labrador
 Banks (IN) Dunn LaHood
 Barletta Emmer LaMalfa
 Barr Engel Lamb
 Barton Eshoo Lamborn
 Bera Espallat Lance
 Bergman Estes (KS) Langevin
 Beyer Esty (CT) Larsen (WA)
 Bishop (GA) Evans Larson (CT)
 Bishop (MI) Faso Latta
 Bishop (UT) Ferguson Lawrence
 Black Fitzpatrick Lawson (FL)
 Blackburn Fleischmann Lee
 Blum Flores Lesko
 Blumenauer Fortenberry Levin
 Blunt Rochester Foster Lewis (GA)
 Bonamici Foxx Lewis (MN)
 Bost Frankel (FL) Lipinski
 Boyle, Brendan Frelinghuysen LoBiondo
 F. Fudge Loebsack
 Brady (TX) Gabbard Lofgren
 Brat Long
 Brooks (IN) Gallagher Loudermilk
 Brown (MD) Gallego Love
 Buchanan Garamendi Lowenthal
 Bucshon Gianforte Lowey
 Budd Gibbs Lucas
 Burgess Gohmert Luetkemeyer
 Bustos Goodlatte Lujan, Ben Ray
 Byrne Gottheimer Lynch
 Calvert Granger MacArthur
 Capuano Graves (GA) Maloney,
 Carbajal Graves (LA) Carolyn B.
 Carson (IN) Graves (MO) Maloney, Sean
 Carter (GA) Green, Al Marchant
 Carter (TX) Green, Gene Marino
 Cartwright Grijalva Marshall
 Castor (FL) Grothman Mast
 Castro (TX) Guthrie Matsui
 Chabot Hanabusa McCarthy
 Cheney Handel McCaul
 Chu, Judy Harper McClintock
 Cicilline Harris McCollum
 Clark (MA) Hartzler McEachin
 Clarke (NY) Hastings McGovern
 Clay Heck McHenry
 Cleaver Hensarling McKinley
 Clyburn Herrera Beutler McMorris
 Coffman Hice, Jody B. Rodgers
 Cohen Higgins (LA) McSally
 Cole Higgins (NY) Meadows
 Collins (GA) Hill Meeks
 Collins (NY) Himes Meng
 Comer Holding Messer
 Comstock Hollingsworth Mitchell
 Conaway Hoyer Moolenaar
 Connolly Hudson Mooney (WV)
 Cook Huffman Moore
 Cooper Huizenga Moulton
 Correa Hultgren Mullin
 Costa Hurd Murphy (FL)
 Costello (PA) Jackson Lee Nadler
 Courtney Jayapal Napolitano
 Cramer Jeffries Neal
 Crawford Jenkins (KS) Newhouse
 Crist Jenkins (WV) Nolan
 Crowley Johnson (GA) Norcross
 Cuellar Johnson (LA) Norman
 Culberson Johnson (OH) Nunes
 Curbelo (FL) Johnson, E. B. O'Halleran
 Curtis Johnson, Sam Olson
 Davidson Jordan Pallone
 Davis (CA) Joyce (OH) Palmer
 Davis, Danny Kaptur Panetta
 Davis, Rodney Katko Pascarell
 DeFazio Keating Paulsen
 DeGette Kelly (IL) Payne
 Delaney Kelly (MS) Pearce
 DeLauro Kelly (PA) Pelosi
 DelBene Kennedy Perry
 Demings Khanna Peters
 DeSantis Kihuen Peterson
 DeSaulnier Kildee Pingree
 DesJarlais Kilmer Pittenger

Pocan Schiff Tonko
 Poe (TX) Schneider Trott
 Poliquin Schrader Turner
 Posey Schweikert Upton
 Price (NC) Scott (VA) Valadao
 Quigley Scott, Austin Vargas
 Raskin Scott, David Veasey
 Ratcliffe Sensenbrenner Velázquez
 Reed Serrano Visclosky
 Reichert Sessions Wagner
 Renacci Sewell (AL) Walberg
 Rice (NY) Shea-Porter Walden
 Rice (SC) Shimkus Walker
 Roe (TN) Shuster Walorski
 Rogers (AL) Simpson Wasserman
 Rogers (KY) Sinema Schultz
 Rooney, Francis Smith (NE) Smith (NJ)
 Rooney, Thomas Smith (TX) Webster (FL)
 J. Smith (WA) Welch
 Ros-Lehtinen Smucker Womack
 Roskam Soto Wenstrup
 Ross Rothfus Westerman
 Rouzer Stefanik Williams
 Roybal-Allard Stewart Wilson (SC)
 Royce (CA) Stivers Wittman
 Ruiz Suozzi Womack
 Ruppertsberger Takano Woodall
 Rush Taylor Yarmuth
 Russell Tenney Yoder
 Rutherford Thompson (CA) Yoho
 Ryan (OH) Thompson (MS) Young (AK)
 Sarbanes Thompson (PA) Young (IA)
 Scalise Thornberry Zeldin
 Schakowsky Tipton

NAYS—9

Amash Garrett Jones
 Biggs Gosar Massie
 Buck Griffith Sanford

NOT VOTING—45

Barragán Gutiérrez Rosen
 Bass Hunter Sánchez
 Beatty Issa Sherman
 Bilirakis Lieu, Ted Sires
 Brady (PA) Lujan Grisham, Smith (MO)
 Brooks (AL) M. Swallow (CA)
 Brownley (CA) McNerney Titus
 Butterfield Noem Torres
 Cárdenas O'Rourke Tsongas
 Cummings Palazzo Vela
 Denham Perlmutter Walters, Mimi
 Duncan (TN) Polis Walz
 Ellison Richmond Waters, Maxine
 Gomez Roby Wilson (FL)
 Gonzalez (TX) Rohrabacher
 Gowdy Rokita

□ 1905

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CAMP NELSON HERITAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5655) to establish the Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument in the State of Kentucky as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes, 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 Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 376, nays 4, not voting 47, as follows:

[Roll No. 233]

YEAS—376

Abraham	Donovan	Kustoff (TN)
Adams	Doyle, Michael	Labrador
Aderholt	F.	LaHood
Aguilar	Duffy	LaMalfa
Allen	Duncan (SC)	Lamb
Amodei	Dunn	Lamborn
Arrington	Emmer	Lance
Babin	Engel	Langevin
Bacon	Eshoo	Larsen (WA)
Banks (IN)	Españal	Larson (CT)
Barletta	Estes (KS)	Latta
Barr	Esty (CT)	Lawrence
Barton	Evans	Lawson (FL)
Bera	Faso	Lee
Bergman	Ferguson	Lesko
Beyer	Fitzpatrick	Levin
Biggs	Fleischmann	Lewis (GA)
Bishop (GA)	Flores	Lewis (MN)
Bishop (MI)	Fortenberry	Lipinski
Bishop (UT)	Foster	LoBiondo
Blackburn	Foxo	Loeb
Blum	Frankel (FL)	Lofgren
Blumenauer	Frelinghuysen	Long
Blunt	Fudge	Loudermilk
Blumenthal	Gabbard	Love
Bost	Gaetz	Lowenthal
Boyle, Brendan	Gallagher	Lowe
F.	Galligo	Lucas
Brady (TX)	Garamendi	Luetkemeyer
Brat	Garrett	Lujan, Ben Ray
Brooks (IN)	Gianforte	Lynch
Brown (MD)	Gibbs	MacArthur
Buchanan	Gohmert	Maloney
Buck	Goodlatte	Carolyn B.
Bucshon	Gosar	Maloney, Sean
Budd	Gottheimer	Marchant
Burgess	Granger	Marino
Bustos	Graves (GA)	Marshall
Byrne	Graves (LA)	Massie
Calvert	Graves (MO)	Mast
Capuano	Green, Al	Matsui
Carbajal	Green, Gene	McCarthy
Carson (IN)	Grijalva	McCaul
Carter (GA)	Grothman	McClintock
Carter (TX)	Guthrie	McCollum
Cartwright	Hanabusa	McEeachin
Castor (FL)	Handel	McGovern
Castro (TX)	Harper	McHenry
Chabot	Hartzel	McKinley
Cheney	Hastings	McMorris
Chu, Judy	Heck	Rodgers
Cicilline	Hensarling	McSally
Clark (MA)	Herrera Beutler	Meadows
Clarke (NY)	Hice, Jody B.	Meeks
Clay	Higgins (LA)	Meng
Cleaver	Higgins (NY)	Messer
Clyburn	Hill	Mitchell
Coffman	Himes	Moolenaar
Cohen	Holding	Mooney (WV)
Cole	Hollingsworth	Moore
Collins (NY)	Hoyer	Moulton
Comer	Hudson	Mullin
Comstock	Huffman	Murphy (FL)
Conaway	Huizenga	Nadler
Connolly	Hultgren	Napolitano
Cook	Hurd	Neal
Cooper	Jackson Lee	Newhouse
Correa	Jayapal	Nolan
Costa	Jeffries	Norcross
Costello (PA)	Jenkins (KS)	Norman
Courtney	Jenkins (WV)	Nunes
Cramer	Johnson (GA)	O'Halleran
Crawford	Johnson (LA)	Olson
Crist	Johnson (OH)	Pallone
Crowley	Johnson, E. B.	Palmer
Cuellar	Johnson, Sam	Panetta
Culberson	Jordan	Pascarell
Curbelo (FL)	Joyce (OH)	Paulsen
Curtis	Kaptur	Payne
Davidson	Katko	Pearce
Davis (CA)	Keating	Pelosi
Davis, Danny	Kelly (IL)	Perry
Davis, Rodney	Kelly (MS)	Peters
DeFazio	Kelly (PA)	Peterson
DeGette	Kennedy	Pingree
Delaney	Khanna	Pittenger
DeLauro	Kihuen	Pocan
DelBene	Kildee	Poe (TX)
Demings	Kilmer	Poliquin
DeSantis	Kind	Posey
DeSaulnier	King (IA)	Price (NC)
DesJarlais	King (NY)	Quigley
Deutch	Kinzie	Raskin
Diaz-Balart	Knight	Ratcliffe
Dingell	Krishnamoorthi	Reed
Doggett	Kuster (NH)	Reichert

Renacci	Scott, David
Rice (NY)	Sensenbrenner
Rice (SC)	Serrano
Roe (TN)	Sessions
Rogers (AL)	Sewell (AL)
Rogers (KY)	Shea-Porter
Rooney, Francis	Shimkus
Rooney, Thomas	Shuster
J.	Simpson
Ros-Lehtinen	Sinema
Roskam	Smith (NE)
Ross	Smith (NJ)
Rothfus	Smith (TX)
Rouzer	Smith (WA)
Roybal-Allard	Smucker
Royce (CA)	Soto
Ruiz	Speier
Ruppersberger	Stefanik
Rush	Stewart
Russell	Stivers
Rutherford	Suozzi
Ryan (OH)	Takano
Sanford	Taylor
Sarbanes	Tenney
Scalise	Thompson (CA)
Schakowsky	Thompson (MS)
Schiff	Thompson (PA)
Schneider	Thornberry
Schroeder	Tipton
Schweikert	Tonko
Scott (VA)	Trott
Scott, Austin	Turner

NAYS—4

Amash	Harris
Griffith	Jones

NOT VOTING—47

Barragan	Gonzalez (TX)	Rohrabacher
Bass	Gowdy	Rokita
Beatty	Gutierrez	Rosen
Bilirakis	Hunter	Sánchez
Black	Issa	Sherman
Brady (PA)	Lieu, Ted	Sires
Brooks (AL)	Lujan Grisham,	Smith (MO)
Brownley (CA)	M.	Swalwell (CA)
Butterfield	McNerney	Titus
Cardenas	Noem	Torres
Collins (GA)	O'Rourke	Tsongas
Cummings	Palazzo	Vela
Denham	Perlmutter	Walters, Mimi
Duncan (TN)	Polis	Walz
Ellison	Richmond	Waters, Maxine
Gomez	Roby	Wilson (FL)

□ 1913

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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 5, 2018, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to make votes that evening. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" for rollcall 231, H.R. 5005—To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the birthplace of James Weldon Johnson in Jacksonville, Florida, as a unit of the National Park System; rollcall 232, H.R. 2991—Susquehanna National Heritage Area Act; and, rollcall 233, H.R. 5655—Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument Act.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 2846

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the first sponsor of H.R. 2846, a bill originally introduced by Representative Farenthold of Texas, for the purposes

of adding cosponsors and requesting reprints pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1915

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS PRIMARY SPONSOR OF H. RES. 282

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the primary sponsor of H. Res. 282, a resolution originally introduced by Representative DENT of Pennsylvania, for the purposes of adding cosponsors and requesting reprints, pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

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

There was no objection.

WITHDRAWING AND REVISING PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED RESCIS- SIONS OF BUDGET AUTHORITY— MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 115-130)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 1014(c) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 685(c)), I am withdrawing four previously proposed rescissions and reporting revisions to six rescissions previously transmitted to the Congress.

The withdrawals are for the Federal Highway Administration Miscellaneous Appropriations and Miscellaneous Highway Trust Funds accounts of the Department of Transportation, the Environmental Programs and Management account of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the International Disaster Assistance account of the United States Agency for International Development. The six revised rescissions, totaling \$896 million, affect the programs of the Departments of Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development, Labor, and the Treasury, as well as the Corporation for National and Community Service.

The details of the rescission withdrawals and each revised rescission are contained in the attached reports.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 5, 2018.

RECOGNIZING SAVE DURING PRIDE MONTH

(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, as we celebrate Pride Month, I would like to congratulate SAVE, S-A-V-E, an organization in my congressional district that works around the clock to promote, protect, and defend LGBTQ equality.

For many years, I have been proud to partner with SAVE to create much-needed public understanding of gender identity and, hence, foster an even more inclusive south Florida community.

This Friday, June 8, this wonderful organization will host its 25th anniversary gala, where it will honor the 2018 equality champions: Miami Beach Police Chief Daniel Oates and the head of business operations of our very own Miami Heat, Eric Woolworth.

It is because of groups like SAVE, champions like Daniel and Eric, and committed individuals throughout our communities that we will guarantee that our American values of freedom and opportunity are shared by all.

So, thank you, Daniel and Eric; and thank you to my pal and SAVE's Executive Director, Tony Lima, and to the entire SAVE team for all that you do to promote LGBTQ inclusion and make our slice of paradise in south Florida an even better place in which to live.

GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

(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, I rise to recognize June as Gun Violence Awareness Month and to ask my colleagues across the aisle: How many lives must we sacrifice at the altar of the gun lobby before Congress says enough is enough?

I saw in the news today that David Hogg, one of the Parkland survivors, wore a price tag instead of his tassel to his graduation. It is said that he is worth about \$1.05. That is how much David calculated the NRA spent per student to help elect an NRA-aligned United States Senator in Florida.

Mr. Speaker, our children deserve more.

Mr. Speaker, our children are worth more.

The NRA spends millions of dollars in our elections, but all the American people get is "no Republican action"—NRA—because that is what the gun lobby pays for.

Well, Mr. Speaker, our young people know what is up, and they are registering to vote because they know they are worth more than just a dollar and a nickel.

FIGHTING ALZHEIMER'S

(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, 5.7 million Americans cope with Alzheimer's every day. Every 65 seconds, another American contracts the disease. It is the sixth leading cause of death in our country, and two-thirds of its victim are women.

Alzheimer's is a very progressive disease where dementia symptoms gradually worsen over a number of years.

We don't yet have a cure for Alzheimer's, but we're helping provide the resources now to find that cure. The recent budget that we just passed includes a \$414 million increase in funding for research into Alzheimer's, for a total of \$1.8 billion.

I am also proud to be a cosponsor of the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act, a bipartisan bill which dedicates new resources to the fight against Alzheimer's, because it is time, Mr. Speaker, we put an end to a disease that is costing Americans \$277 billion every year.

GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Month and the 33,000 American lives lost each year to gun violence.

These tragedies are preventable, Mr. Speaker, and it is truly shameful that Congress has yet to take meaningful action to address this epidemic. Even more appalling is the fact that 1,300 of these deaths are children, young lives cut short by meaningless and avoidable violence.

Last month I introduced the Child Gun Access Prevention Act, which would prevent children from accessing guns by holding gun owners responsible when they leave their firearms unlocked.

Millions of children live in homes with unsecured guns, Mr. Speaker, and they are at an increased risk of unintentional shootings and youth suicides. We have also seen the devastation caused when a child takes a parent's gun to school with the intention of causing harm. A child should never access a gun unsupervised.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation. We absolutely must do more to protect our children from gun violence.

LOPEZ MEXICAN RESTAURANT

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I know the people watching back home can't see my tie, but this tie is a tribute to great Mexican food. It has tortilla chips, a bowl of queso, and jalapenos.

Why do I have on this special tie? It is a tribute to a Fort Bend icon: Lopez

Mexican Restaurant. The husband and wife to my left, Rodrigo and Bertha, started Lopez in 1979. They were joined by their kids: Jonathan, Jose, and Ana.

Lopez was always full. We prayed a new one would open. Those prayers were answered last month. The second Lopez opened next to another Houston icon: Mattress Mack.

For 40 years, the Lopez family has had one solemn promise: Every day, and for generations to come, the restaurant will focus on service, value, and cleanliness to ensure the guest always leaves satisfied.

Those promises have been kept. "Welcome to your new home," "bienvenidos a su casa nueva."

THE IMPORTANCE OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

(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, in our increasingly competitive world, a 4-year college may not be for everyone, but a postsecondary education has to be.

As we address this reality, it is vital that we recognize the vital role of career and technical education. That is why I am proud to have served as the Democratic lead on the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act and to have worked with my colleagues from both parties throughout this process.

Our bill will bring the Carl D. Perkins grant program into the 21st century by increasing funding and bringing educators and business leaders together to develop curricula to prepare students for in-demand fields.

The House passed this bill unanimously last year, and now I want to encourage the Senate to take up this legislation. Through investing in our citizens and our economy, this bill will help families across the country join and stay in the middle class.

NEW YORK'S RUN FOR THE FALLEN

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

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, it is vitally important to remember the sacrifices of America's fallen servicemembers and their families every day. Today I rise to recognize a special tribute to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

This weekend, the New York Run for the Fallen will travel across the 22nd District to pay homage to our Nation's fallen heroes. The run seeks to honor the families and the sacrifices of those who answered the call to serve our great Nation.

Leading the charge in our community is Kristi Mangine, an advocate for our veterans and member of the

Colgate University community. She is also a core runner for the New York chapter and has recruited a number of members of our community to participate in this great tribute.

The event is a 175-mile run across the State of New York, each mile representing one hero killed who served during the war on terror, including Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation New Dawn.

I would like to thank Kristi Mangine and those involved in this year's run for inviting me to participate in this important event to honor those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in our Nation's longest running overseas conflict.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to also join us, as well as any community members who have a moment to pick up a time slot for one of our fallen heroes and give them a special tribute to their sacrifice.

DEFENDING OUR COAST

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

Mr. MCEACHIN. Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve policies that will protect our planet, keep loved ones healthy, and preserve access to clean air, water, and land for future generations.

Lately, there has been a relentless assault on the environmental policies that were crafted to protect us, including the commonsense prohibition of offshore drilling in the Atlantic. Despite the Defense Department stating that offshore drilling may impede and hamper military readiness activities, the American people were told that our oceans were open for exploitation.

Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable. That is why, today, I introduced the bipartisan Defend Our Coast Act with my friend, Congressman WALTER JONES of North Carolina. The Defend Our Coast Act will prohibit the Department of the Interior from issuing leases for the exploration, development, or production of oil and gas on the Outer Continental Shelf in the mid-Atlantic.

Prior tragedies such as Deepwater Horizon's oil spill proved that drilling accidents can be dangerous, expensive, and life-threatening. Mr. Speaker, I urge you to bring the Defend Our Coast Act up for a vote. Offshore drilling negatively impacts our coastal communities. It is not worth the risk.

Let us commit ourselves to leaving the Earth a healthier and safer place for future generations.

RECOGNIZING CASS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES

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

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, every community has peace officers who put

their lives on the line every day to protect their communities, and we don't say thank you nearly often enough.

Today I rise to recognize four very special school resource deputies of the Cass County Sheriff's Office who have been given the Model Agency Award, which is the top honor that is given by the National Association of School Resource Officers.

This award recognizes the work of law enforcement officers who promote safer schools and safer children, and they singled out the Cass County program as "a shining example of the school resource officers program."

The deputies work with students at Kindred, Maple Valley, Central Cass, Northern Cass, and Mapleton Elementary Schools. Supervised by Sergeant Tim Briggeman and under the command of Captain Jesse Jahner, the deputies are Jason Scott, Joe Crawford, Chris Potter, and Dan Hermann. Cass County Sheriff Paul Laney calls these officers the "best of the best."

On behalf of all North Dakotans, I congratulate them and thank Sheriff Laney and his entire staff for the high bar of excellence they deliver in serving all the citizens of Cass County.

□ 1930

HONORING THE LIFE OF TARA ROE SMITH

(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, today I rise to remember the life of Tara Roe Smith. Tara attended the Route 91 festival in Las Vegas on October 1. She lived in Okotoks, Alberta, Canada, where she was a wonderful mother to her two kids, Lennon and Louis, and was a loving wife to her husband Zach.

Tara was a hard worker who modeled with Sophia Models International, worked as an educational assistant with children with autism, and was about to be promoted to be a manager at a restaurant where she was a waitress.

Tara was very active and loved dancing, swimming, and being at her favorite summer spot, Clear Lake. Going to the Route 91 festival was an annual tradition for Tara and her husband. They would be there every year to celebrate their anniversary.

Tara was dedicated to her community, and if she had survived, her husband has no doubt that she would have done everything she could to help those who were victims of the Las Vegas shooting.

She was a very caring spirit who greeted everyone with a friendly face. I would like to extend my condolences to Tara Roe Smith's family and friends. Please know that the city of Las Vegas, the State of Nevada, and the whole country grieve with you.

REPEAL FEDERAL EXCISE TAX ON HEAVY TRUCKS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of a bill I have introduced, H.R. 2946, which would repeal the burdensome 12 percent Federal excise tax on heavy trucks, known as the FET.

It was first created to help fund World War I—that is right, World War I, 100 years ago. The antiquated FET is the highest excise tax levied by the Federal Government today. The financial and regulatory burdens created by the FET hurts truck retailers, drivers, and businesses across the country. It depresses the market for newer heavy-duty trucks, which are cleaner, more efficient, and everybody in government seems to be clamoring for them to be replaced for those reasons.

A repeal of this outdated legislation would seek to promote the use of more modern trucks on our roads—again, something government seems to want and demand. By incorporating this repeal effort into any future infrastructure funding measure, Congress can rebuild our Nation's crumbling road system while ensuring our commercial truck fleet is both cleaner and safer.

I urge my colleagues to support inclusion of this bipartisan bill and repeal the FET, which only hampers economic growth and discontinues truck replacement, which is what everybody seems to want.

BENEFITS OF TAX REFORM

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, when I last had the honor to host a Special Order, the House was debating the merits of tax reform, and in that debate, supporters of the tax reform promised higher wages, a stronger economy, greater opportunity, and shared prosperity.

Six months after President Trump signed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act into law, the results are in, and we can now confidently say that the days of a weak and sluggish economy are behind us. America is again a rising Nation. America is again a Nation where families are able to keep more of what they

earn. America is growing and advancing to the economic prosperity that our workers and our businesses well deserve.

But the American people don't need us to tell them that because they are feeling the effects of tax reform every single day. Capital One, Wells Fargo, Waste Management, JetBlue, Comcast, American Airlines, Walmart, BB&T, and Nationwide Mutual Insurance are among the hundreds of businesses, large and small, across this land that have given pay raises and bonuses and 401(k) match increases to their hard-working employees because of the historic tax reform that we were able to achieve.

These bonuses are not going just to a lucky few, because the statistics are in as well. More than 4 million Americans, and counting, have already received tax reform bonuses. Thanks to tax reform, at least 95 utilities have lowered their rates, and that means that some 87 million Americans not only have more money in their pockets, they are paying lower electric bills and gas bills and water bills, and that really matters.

Additionally, unemployment is down and confidence is up. We are looking at 3.8 percent unemployment rate. It is the lowest it has been in nearly 20 years, and 90 percent of Americans are experiencing a higher take-home pay.

According to the Gallup Poll organization, nearly 7 in 10 Americans believe now is a good time to find a quality job, and they were not incorrect in that assumption. There are now more job openings in America than there are Americans seeking jobs. America is back.

For years, the previous administration attempted to control the American economy from Washington, but the results speak for themselves. The free enterprise system inevitably outperforms central planning because it places its confidence in the people instead of in the government.

The economic principles put in place by this Congress have had an immeasurable impact. It is continuing every day, and hardworking Americans are enjoying more of the fruits of their labor, industry is growing, and the Nation is becoming more confident as the economy strengthens.

For the remainder of this hour, Mr. Speaker, a number of Members of this Congress are going to address this same issue, and I would now yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES).

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for putting this Special Order together. It is very important.

Mr. Speaker, in the 1980s, it was known for big hair, big bangs—I know my sister had bangs about to here. I made that up. Maybe it was here—parachute pants, mullets, and all sorts of other things that we now recognize were awful ideas.

We have updated our thoughts, but we were still living with a Tax Code

from the 1980s, a Tax Code that was 32 years old, a Tax Code that simply made the United States uncompetitive in regard to other nations.

Mr. Speaker, if you think about it for just a minute, if we served hamburgers right here and, across the street, you had a place that served the exact same product and they sold it for half the price, how long would we be in business? How long would we still have a restaurant right here? It wouldn't exist. It would eventually go out of business because, across the street, they have the same product for half the price.

Mr. Speaker, the Tax Code of the United States was placing that burden, that penalty, or that uncompetitive nature on businesses in the United States. They were able to go out and invest in other countries and pay a fraction of the price that they were paying in the United States.

So we updated the Tax Code in December, as the gentleman, the previous speaker noted. Back in the 1980s, and—excuse me, the 1960s, just to give some metric for comparison—17 of the top global companies had headquarters right here in the United States. Yet, last year, it dropped down to just 6—just 6, because companies were going to other countries where they could get that lower rate.

And, as the gentleman noted, we have seen billions of dollars invested in companies invested in workers. We are seeing the lowest unemployment rate in years for women, for African Americans, for Hispanics—6.6 million jobs available today, one of the highest numbers we have seen in history in available jobs today. This is working.

Mr. Speaker, this is being complemented with regulatory relief. This is being complemented with removing or rescinding old regulations, updating and making it more efficient so we can compete on a global scale with countries around the world. The tax bill is working, and it is extraordinary the success that we are seeing.

For example, back in April, we saw the highest tax surplus in history for that month. I believe it was \$213 billion in surplus revenues collected. It is extraordinary growth we are seeing, and as the previous speaker noted, America is back. We are taking the handcuffs off of American businesses, allowing American employment opportunities to be available, allowing for better wages, better jobs, and better competition here in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, back in my home State of Louisiana, we have seen companies like Spillway Sportsman, where I have spoken to Scott, the owner, expanding facilities and offering more services to customers. We have seen LHC Group, a healthcare company, raising wages, providing more in retirement benefits to their employees, and we have seen Gulf South Bank raising their minimum wage and investing in bonuses in their employees to ensure that those employees are reaping the benefits

from these changes in the Tax Code and the increased competitiveness in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I will say this again. The tax bill is working. You can look at black and white metrics. You can look at the statistics. You can look at the fundamental change in economic growth that is happening. And, most importantly, Mr. Speaker, you can see the increased wages. You can see the better employment opportunities that are being offered to American workers as opposed to investments going overseas.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to another gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS) of the Third District.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for allowing us to address “We, the people” regarding this very important topic.

Mr. Speaker, over the course of the past 500 days, this Congress has worked with President Trump to pass historic tax cuts and regulatory reform. As a result, this is the strongest economy we have seen in two decades.

Many of my colleagues across the aisle, whom I respect, continue to posture otherwise, ignoring the facts. They have dismissed our efforts as crumbs, saying that tax cuts are Armageddon. But outside of this Chamber, outside of the small bubble that is D.C., the real America exists and real Americans who get it.

People concerned with earning an honest living and providing for their families, because of tax reform, those families are seeing new jobs created. They are seeing real wage growth. They are seeing new investments in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I travel throughout the district that I represent. I speak directly to the citizens that I serve. In Lafayette, Abbeville, New Iberia, Lake Charles, everywhere we go, there are real people telling real stories about how tax cuts are improving their lives.

Americans that I represent, they have shared their stories about how they are using their tax cut to pay bills, to save for retirement, or to buy new school clothes for the kids. Small business owners across south Louisiana have shared how they are expanding operations and investing in their employees. That is the real impact on families in Louisiana and across America.

This body spent months debating the merits of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. I and many of my colleagues projected more jobs, more investment, and a stronger economy. We were right. Those projections have become reality: nearly 3 million new jobs since President Trump was elected; 1 million new jobs since we passed historic tax cuts; unemployment at its lowest point in half a century; consumer confidence at a 17-year high; small business optimism at an all-time high; and real GDP growth projected at over 4 percent for 2018.

Let me share that I have read the Book of Revelation. This is no Armageddon. This is a historically strong economy fueled by tax cuts and regulatory reform.

Mr. Speaker, America is back. We are open for business, and Americans will continue to benefit from the pro-growth conservative policies of President Trump and this Republican Congress.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and I yield to the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS).

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and thank him for his leadership in leading this discussion tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor this evening to discuss the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. As a CPA, I knew that reforming our broken Tax Code would make us competitive in a global economy and would lead us to jobs and prosperity for the American people. I saw firsthand the old Tax Code was a nightmare to comply with, adding excessive time for companies and individuals alike to file.

□ 1945

Doubling the standard deduction and streamlining the alternative minimum tax are just two examples within the legislation to simplify the taxpayer experience for millions of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the rhetoric around here and in the press can get out of hand at times, so let's take a look back at some of the biggest claims about the bill and what the reality is.

One of the most common claims I have heard as a Representative from Kansas was that this act was simply the Kansas tax plan on steroids, but that was never the case. Where Kansas eliminated income taxes on certain businesses, the Federal act simply reduced taxes on all businesses at a comparable rate to other businesses. With the new Federal rates, all businesses, regardless of size, continue to pay Federal income taxes, just at a lower rate. In fact, the truth is, instead of breaking the bank, thanks to this bill, the State of Kansas is seeing new revenue to the tune of nearly \$140 million or more a year.

Mr. Speaker, another one of the most egregious claims was the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act would raise taxes on the middle class. Not only was this claim debunked by fact checkers, here is what the reality is in my district.

A typical family of four in my district is seeing a Federal income tax cut of just over \$2,200. This is on top of bonuses paid and utility companies, like Westar Energy and Kansas City Power and Light Company, announcing they would lower utility rates as a result of this tax reform.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, there were claims made that companies would keep the benefits of tax reform and not use it to grow jobs or wages. I would like to share with you an example from

my district, which sets the record straight on this notion.

The Lawrence Paper Company, which employs hundreds of workers across three locations in Kansas and Nebraska, has recently committed to increasing their post-tax reform investment to \$13 million in equipment. The company's president attributes this increased investment as a direct result of the lower taxes and favorable business climate generated by the recently enacted tax reform.

Couple that fact with the same company's employees receiving hundreds of large bonuses that went toward recovering holiday expenses, paying down bills, or reinvesting in their local community, and my point is even more clear.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is putting more money in Kansans' pockets and creating a system that allows our businesses to compete in a global marketplace. I could not be more pleased that Kansans and Kansas businesses are doing their part to get my State and the national economy moving again.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her expertise and testimony.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD).

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to speak this evening about the positive effect the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act has had back in Arkansas' First District. Major industries, businesses, and families are already experiencing financial relief and enjoy having a few more dollars in their pockets.

Agriculture is the number one industry in my district and in the State, adding around \$16 billion to the Arkansas economy each year. Considering this, it was imperative that we pass a tax reform package that brings relief to farmers and ensures the next generation will be able to transition into the industry. The old adage that farmers die land rich but cash poor presented a serious problem under the previous estate tax exemption.

Farming families often struggled to pass the business from one generation to the next. However, by doubling the estate tax exemption in H.R. 1, we are able to bring much-needed support to farming families as they cope with the loss of a loved one and a new generation takes over the farm.

Businesses in my district have also experienced savings from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that they passed along to their customers and employees. Because of the lowered corporate tax rate, Entergy Arkansas, which provides electricity to all of the counties in my district, reduced rates for residential and business customers.

Ryder truck rental, which has locations in Jonesboro and Stuttgart, provided a one-time bonus to eligible employees. In February, Walmart, which has several locations throughout the State, increased the starting wage rate

for all employees to \$11 an hour, expanded maternity and parental leave benefits, and provided a one-time cash bonus to eligible employees of up to \$1,000.

Most important are the savings Arkansas families will see from taking home more of their hard-earned paychecks. A middle-income family of four in Arkansas will see a tax cut of \$1,900. That is almost \$2,000 extra to spend at businesses throughout the State. I am proud to go home to my district and tell my constituents that I voted "yes" on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act because Arkansas farmers, businesses, and families are already benefiting from this legislation.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL).

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Louisiana for the opportunity to speak tonight in the House Chamber on what the benefits of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act has had across our country and, particularly, in the Second Congressional District of Arkansas.

Like for most Americans, Arkansans are actively benefiting from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, signed by President Trump at the end of last year, through lower withholding rates—all Americans should check your check and look at the difference in withholding this year versus last year—a streamlined tax filing process, a doubled child tax credit, a doubled standard deduction, Mr. Speaker, that now says 9 out of 10 Arkansans living in the Second District can file a simple tax reform and not have to go through the paperwork of itemizing, and flexibility in tax advantaged savings for their kid's education has expanded to K through elementary and high school. This helps our families, Mr. Speaker.

I hear numerous examples from Arkansans and business people across the district of how they are seeing that benefit manifested besides the changes in their paycheck.

My friend, Mr. CRAWFORD, referenced Entergy Arkansas. All C corps that are utilities in this country are required to share the benefits of our tax cut directly with the households in their electricity bills and their gas bills. Those rates are falling directly proportionate with the reduction in tax cut rates to the point that Arkansans will save about \$20 a month on a typical electrical bill.

I had a woman write me just a few months ago, right after the law passed, saying that she checked her check in February on withholding, and she found that the change in withholding now paid for the health insurance premium that she is covering for her daughter. These are not crumbs, as alleged by certain leaders in Washington. These are dollars our families get to spend in a way that benefits them.

A local banker in my district announced \$500 bonuses for each of their 800 employees, Mr. Speaker. That is

real money, in addition to the tax savings. That executive at the bank said:

The tax reform has created the opportunity for us to reward our employees who are working hard each day to both serve our customers and enrich relationships in our communities.

Those are not crumbs, Mr. Speaker.

And to make a statement like calling you keeping more of your money crumbs, that just shows you how out of touch some political leaders are up here in the beltway.

Real families in Arkansas and across our country want to have more income for our families. Our businesses want more money to invest because if we invest money, we grow our companies faster. We add employees, and we boost the GDP. We are part of that American Dream that we are witnessing with the lowest unemployment rates in decades, the highest optimism in decades.

Arkansans and Americans should know that House Republicans are working hard on policies to complement the tax reform package to help them keep more of what they earn.

I commend my colleagues for the work that we have done to bring American families and businesses tax relief. For years to come, there will be benefits from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. It was a long wait for 30 years to get this change, but it is reminiscent, back in 1963, of President John Kennedy when he argued for tax cuts, stating the goal is to achieve the most prosperous, expanding economy. Exactly right, President Kennedy. House Republicans share that vision, and we have set a foundation for communities across the country to reap the benefits of their hard work and their contributions to our Nation.

These reforms are not only good for our families, they are necessary for faster economic growth.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WOMACK).

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague from Louisiana for hosting this very important discussion about the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. As has been mentioned many times in the last several presentations, there is no question that the tax reform plan passed in this Chamber and in the Senate and signed into law by President Trump is working.

Because of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the economy is taking a turn for a brighter and much more prosperous future. Americans are getting to keep more of their hard-earned paychecks. More jobs are being created, and wages are on the rise.

Since tax reform was signed into law, the good news keeps coming for hard-working Americans. American businesses are more empowered to invest in their workforces, expand their operations, and simply give back to their communities. In fact, more than 500 businesses, and counting, have increased wages, improved employee benefits, or awarded bonuses.

In Arkansas, the impact is very tangible. My friend from the Second District, FRENCH HILL, talked about what Entergy Arkansas has been able to do by providing energy customers across our State with \$466 million in credits towards the cost of heating and cooling their homes.

Families in my district—Arkansas' Third—are seeing their taxes go down by nearly \$2,000 on average, and Third District companies are benefiting Americans nationwide.

My friend from Arkansas, Mr. CRAWFORD, talked about Walmart. Walmart is headquartered in my district. It increased its starting hourly wage to \$11 for more than 1.5 million U.S. associates. The company also expanded parental leave benefits, provided a one-time cash bonus for eligible employees of up to \$1,000, and is now empowering its employees to obtain a college education. All of this made possible by something as simple as allowing companies, businesses, and individuals to keep a little more of their hard-earned money.

Tyson Foods in my district, America's market leader in protein production, headquartered in Springdale, is also using this bill to invest in its people. Tyson Foods provided a one-time bonus to more than 100,000 team members of between \$500 and \$1,000.

So you can see, Mr. Speaker, thanks to tax reform, there is, indeed, a greater optimism about the Nation's economic future.

This fact was confirmed by the Congressional Budget Office's annual baseline, which echoed this apparent optimism. As a direct result of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, CBO expects that employment will rise, wages and income levels will increase, and potential output will grow. Now, who can be opposed to that?

Even more good news. Unemployment, as has been mentioned, is at an 18-year low, and CBO expects businesses will continue to invest in the economy and, over the next 11 years, create nearly 1 million new jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I was a proud supporter of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, and I am proud of the benefits it has brought to the American people. I look forward to witnessing its long-lasting benefits for America.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN).

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana for hosting this. Also, it is an honor to follow my three colleagues from Arkansas.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the benefits of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, specifically in the Fourth District of Arkansas.

One of the greatest advantages that H.R. 1 provides residents of Arkansas' Fourth District is an increased standard deduction of \$12,000 for single filers and \$24,000 for joint filers.

In my district, 81.5 percent of residents choose the standard deduction

when filing their taxes, and they will now be taxed on a smaller portion of their income. In addition, the child tax credit has been doubled to \$2,000 and made partially refundable, a boost for low-income families. Those who itemize their deductions will find most of their previous options still available, including the interest deduction for most mortgages, capital gains deductions, and deductions for charitable contributions.

An overwhelming number of low- and middle-income Arkansans have benefited from the first major tax reform in 36 years. At the same time, these changes have simplified our complex tax laws and encouraged businesses of all sizes to invest in their communities.

□ 2000

Many have committed to increasing wages, paying bonuses to employees, and reinvesting in American jobs and infrastructure, as my colleagues have previously mentioned.

Businesses in Arkansas are thriving, and the biggest concern that I hear right now are where do they find labor. We have got a low unemployment rate and there is a huge competition for labor in my district.

H.R. 1 also maintained the Federal historic tax credit that was originally championed by Ronald Reagan. Cities, like my hometown of Hot Springs, have relied on the historic tax credit to revitalize downtowns and create jobs.

This tax credit has been used to refurbish, revitalize, and reinvigorate properties and communities across the Fourth District of Arkansas and across the country. This not only brings economic prosperity back to these towns and back to these historic areas, but it allows us to keep our history alive for future generations.

Passage of tax cuts and the continuation of the Historic Tax Credit will continue to propel the economy of Arkansas and the country forward. I am proud to have supported it and proud to stand up with my colleagues from The Natural State and around the country to praise its benefits.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for putting this together tonight.

Mr. Speaker, Iowa's economy is humming, paychecks are growing, employers are hiring and investing, unemployment is low.

Not too long ago, during National Small Business Week, I visited with the Urbandale Chamber of Commerce to talk about the benefits of the new Tax Code. A small businessowner told me: "When the new income tax calculations came out, my employees all asked why their paychecks were bigger."

The businessowner told them it was because of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. They thought there was a mistake.

But, no, this is real, and workers are feeling the benefits of the tax relief law.

A constituent from the Des Moines metro area called the office one day to share with us that his monthly income had gone up \$300 because of tax relief. That is real money to Iowans.

A resident of Council Bluffs shared he was receiving over \$100 more in each paycheck, which he and his wife are using to make their car payments. It is helping Iowans.

A small brewery in Glenwood, Iowa, in Mills County called Keg Creek is expanding their operations and investing in new equipment as they grow.

A manager at Jethro's BBQ in western Des Moines said: "Our employees are bringing home more money. Everyone across the board is taking home more money. I can't be more clear about that."

He continued: "It is helping the people that work for us."

Mr. Speaker, the new tax law is helping people across the Third District, throughout all of Iowa, and the country. We see this reflected in data and we just heard it through testimonials.

Since the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was passed, 1 million jobs, we have heard, have been created; unemployment is at the lowest rate in 50 years; and for the first time in 17 years, two-thirds of Americans say it is a good time to find a quality job.

Consumer confidence is the highest it has been in nearly 2 decades. Compensation increases for workers at small businesses are at the highest level in 20 years. Average hourly and weekly earnings are 3.4 percent higher than this time a year ago.

We hear the statistics, because the evidence is clear, and we hear the voices of our constituents telling us this as well.

Our pro-growth policies, tax relief, and commonsense regulatory reform are working. I look forward to seeing our economy continue to grow and flourish and to see American workers and their families continue to thrive.

Allowing workers to keep more of their hard-earned dollars is simply the right thing. And when you do the right thing, good things happen. Good things are happening in Iowa because of this tax relief.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ESTES).

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, my friend from Louisiana, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss how the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is helping families and businesses in my home State of Kansas and throughout our country.

Since Republicans in Congress and the President enacted tax reform, 400 companies have announced \$4 billion in bonuses and investments, impacting 4 million workers.

In my community, Spirit AeroSystems announced new invest-

ments in training and technology. Fidelity Bank announced \$1,500 bonuses for its 400 Wichita area employees. Cox Communications announced up to \$2,000 bonuses for its 900 area employees.

Recently, small businessowner Bob Aldrich of railroad car parts supplier, Wichita Railway Services, gave his employees \$3,000 to \$6,000 bonuses, the largest in the country, thanks to the new law.

In addition to the bonuses and the new jobs being created, 90 percent of Americans began seeing more monthly take-home pay in February.

For Kansans, that meant a middle class family of four will see a tax cut of nearly \$2,300.

These numbers are not crumbs. No, they are not crumbs at all for millions of families across the country. And despite those doomsday predictions, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is already boosting our economy.

Just last week, the unemployment rate fell again to 3.8 percent, the lowest in 18 years. And when families and businesses file next year under the new Tax Code, hardworking Americans will keep even more of their money.

In fact, Wichita tax accountant Archie Macias analyzed his clients' 2017 tax returns and found that approximately 95 percent of his clients will pay less in taxes next year due to the new law.

These numbers are staggering. But behind all of these statistics are people. Whether it is a small general aviation parts manufacturer in Newton or a wheat farmer in Pratt, Kansans from all backgrounds and in all sectors are seeing growth in our economy once again.

Republicans are delivering on our promise to cut taxes and cut regulations, and I look forward to continuing our pro-growth agenda to help American workers and their families.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman and all my colleagues who have participated tonight in this Special Order.

I have spoken quite a bit, we all have, about the national benefits of tax reform, because I think the wage increases and the job creation and the business investment and the consumer confidence should not be ignored, and I am so grateful that has been highlighted tonight. But I also want to talk about what tax reform means to our folks back home in Louisiana and in my Fourth Congressional District.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce predicted that enacting the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act would lead to the creation of more than 13,000 jobs in Louisiana and effectively give middle class families in our State a raise of roughly \$2,000. But I would like to highlight the benefits the U.S. Chamber specifically predicted for my constituents in the 15 parishes, or counties as they are known everywhere else in the country, in northwestern and west Louisiana. That is my district.

We have over 53,000 taxpayers in the Fourth District of Louisiana that will be able to claim a larger child tax credit, just by one example. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act increased the child tax credit from \$1,000 per child to \$1,600 per child.

Nearly 50,000 taxpayers in the Fourth Congressional District derive their income from small businesses, and we know the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act reduces taxes for small businessowners. Everyone ultimately will benefit from that.

For small businessowners, tax reform implements a new, lower, 9 percent tax rate on the first \$75,000 of net business income for owners earning less than \$150,000. Tax reform reduces taxes on small business investment overall by creating a new 25 percent small business tax rate.

Over 4,000 taxpayers that used to have to pay the alternative minimum tax will no longer have to do that. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, as we know, eliminated the AMT.

Even the stress that comes from filing taxes is now going to be reduced. What used to take many, many hours for most Americans has now been reduced substantially.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act doubled the standard deduction, meaning that many taxpayers will have much simpler returns to fill out now every year and could potentially even file their returns on a document the size of a postcard. Yes, it is true.

And 6 months after enactment of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the good news just keeps coming in. We can scarcely keep up with all the happy headlines that have come out of this. That is exactly what we hoped, exactly what we predicted, and it is all coming to pass.

But rather than just talking about the sum of the benefits, I would like to talk about a specific success story, because when we relate this to real people and what it means to real, average, everyday, hardworking Americans, that is where we understand the real benefit.

I want to talk about the success story of Canal Coffee shops, owned and operated by Bossier City native Rodrick James.

Starting in 2016, Mr. James and Priscilla Mayfield opened their anchor store in downtown Kinder, Louisiana, and quickly saw success in the coffee shop and light lunch business model.

Remarkably, Mr. James built his business from the ground up without taking a small business loan.

He expanded his business to include shops in Oberlin and Shreveport, Louisiana. And now with the implementation of pro-growth policies, Mr. James has announced that he plans to open a fourth and then a fifth store in the very near future.

The self-described entrepreneur is anxious to make a difference, and he said: "The latest tax reform bill will definitely be good for me. I am growing"—my business is growing—"and

this tax relief will help me continue that growth.”

He continued: “I pay my employees well already, but there is a lot I can do to grow faster with the extra money.”

See, our district is full of small businessowners like Rodrick James. They are working long hours. They are sacrificing. They are playing by the rules. They are giving their all to achieve their own version of the American Dream.

In fact, that is how we define the American Dream. If you are willing to sacrifice, you are willing to work hard, you are willing to play by the rules, you ought to be able to make a better life for yourself and your family, for your children that come after you, and now we are enabling that again.

This Congress has delivered a fairer, simpler Tax Code that has allowed small businessowners, just like Rodrick, to keep more of their hard-earned dollars and reinvest in their employees, businesses, and community.

Mr. James served our Nation in the U.S. Army for 8 years before becoming a businessowner, and now he strives to remain community-focused. He has donated over \$7,000 to students in our area, and as his business continues to grow, we are certain he is going to continue to sow those good seeds back into the community.

His story is truly inspiring. It embodies the essence of what it means to be an American. I am proud to represent him and his business right here in this Congress.

All around the Fourth District, throughout Louisiana, and every corner of our great Nation, you can find remarkable people who share Mr. James’ experience. Their dreams, that they work hard every day to achieve, can become even bigger with tax reform. This is a big thing for the country.

As my colleagues have said and reiterated here tonight, Mr. Speaker, America is back, and we are humbled to have been a part of it.

I am grateful to all my colleagues who participated in this Special Order this evening. For all the reasons we have articulated, we just want to highlight, once again, that this is an important and proud moment for our Nation, and we are all truly grateful to have been a part of this history.

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

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, so we hear today from the Mueller investigation, as he was appointed by a man named Rosenstein that we now know was completely disqualified from being able to select or name a special counsel

for a number of reasons. For one thing, he would be a witness, because one of the issues was did President Trump obstruct justice when he fired Comey. And the President relied totally, or largely, on the memo that was prepared by Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein. He would be a material witness.

You can’t be involved in an investigation if you are a material witness.

Rosenstein, as it would happen, also had worked with a guy named Mueller and Weissman when they were working on an investigation into Russia’s illegal efforts to get U.S. uranium. And, in fact, they kind of had to jointly and severally put the quash on information about that investigation, because if they didn’t, then the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S., CFIUS, including Hillary Clinton, would not have been able to vote to allow the sale of uranium that would end up in Russia’s hands. And if that sale hadn’t gone through, there is no question all those stockholders that benefitted would not have been so anxious to put \$145 million in the Clinton Foundation and probably Russia wouldn’t have been as quick to pay \$500,000 for a speech from former President Clinton.

□ 2015

But there are all kinds of implications there. Of course, we know from previous special counsels from the Department of Justice, all of them, until Rosenstein and Mueller, made a thorough effort to select lawyers and investigating officers who appeared to have no political bias going in.

What did Mueller do? He specifically went for the people that loved Hillary Clinton and hated Donald Trump, went out of his way to do that.

Some have complained, well, Weissmann has a history of putting innocent people out of work, destroying lives, not only making them unemployed, but making them unemployable and, as the Supreme Court has said, all for things that were not even crimes. That doesn’t seem to deter him, just as it has never deterred Robert Mueller from destroying people’s lives, people of integrity, honest, upstanding people, whether it was Ted Stevens—heck, Colin Powell, one of the previous Cabinet members, decorated military man, had nothing but just accolades to say about Ted Stevens and what an honorable, honest, upright man he was.

And the Mueller FBI framed him. They hid information that not only would have raised a reasonable doubt that showed unequivocally he was not guilty of having a gift of hundreds of thousands of dollars of addition to his cabin because not only did he pay for it, he paid about 20 percent more than the value because, as he had said before: I have to go above and beyond just to keep people at bay who might want to come after me. I have got to keep my nose so clean.

Yet I guess it could be argued, well, maybe Mueller didn’t know that the FBI framed Ted Stevens and convicted him immediately before his election. Well, there is no question he would have known about it as the FBI agent who was singled out by another FBI agent as having engaged in the malicious prosecution, the hiding of evidence, the failure to produce evidence that they had that was exculpatory.

Well, we know that the FBI agent that signed the whistleblowing affidavit, he was driven out of the FBI; and the one that there is evidence under oath that she framed Ted Stevens, she continued to work in the Mueller FBI, which is kind of like Mueller when he was in Boston.

As far as I know, there is no direct evidence that Mueller knew that his FBI agents in Boston were framing Whitey Bulger’s competition, but he certainly had to have known that those four people were innocent when he kept putting pressure on the parole board not to release those innocent people, which I guess is another reason it cost taxpayers \$100 million to the two individuals and then the two families of the two people who died in prison.

Or Curt Weldon, that was the Mueller FBI. I kept wondering my freshman term, Curt would come to this microphone right here—and maybe that should be a warning to me: if you make Mueller mad, he destroys your life. But somebody’s got to stand up to a mean-spirited bully like Robert Mueller. If everybody is afraid of a guy like that, then, I mean, we are Third World governments.

But I kept thinking, you know, Curt Weldon keeps saying the FBI had information before 9/11, they could have done things to stop it, and he kept raising serious questions. I thought Mueller has surely got to answer these. And, yes, I know he had only come to the FBI right before 9/11, so chances are he was not implicated because of his recent arrival as FBI Director before 9/11. But surely he has got to respond somehow. These are serious allegations Curt Weldon was making.

Well, he ultimately did respond. The FBI did a raid on Curt Weldon’s adult daughter’s lawyer office before, I think it was around 6 a.m., and, amazingly, the only people who knew were FBI; and yet all of the media was there to witness the raid, on television, newsprint, radio. They all showed up.

And they are not the only ones to whom it was leaked, because protestors showed up immediately at Curt Weldon’s office accusing him of crimes, caught red-handed, stuff like that. That was 2 weeks before his election that he narrowly lost.

Apparently, that is how Mueller responds.

You know, with all the complaints about bullies these days, you would think that adults in Congress would say: Do you know what? We don’t want adult bullies either. We don’t want to

give adults the power, unlimited, unbridled power, to just go after anybody they want any time they want.

Manafort doesn't seem like somebody I'd ever want to hang out with, but, for heaven's sake, to knock down his door in the wee hours, drag him out of bed at gunpoint, when you just want to do a search—in fact, it would have been better, from a law enforcement standpoint, if they had done the raid when no one was home. But it wasn't about finding something; it was about raw, sheer intimidation.

So what do we hear in the way of raw, sheer intimidation from the Mueller cartel? Well, now we are told that a message that Manafort sent to a partner, somebody he did business with, that that was a crime. It is all about threatening people. It is all about bullying and scaring people.

And what authority is it that Mueller has? Well, that's interesting, because he doesn't want to produce that document. Congress has asked for it. We have absolute authority, and if we were doing our job, we would stop the Mueller investigation, pass an immediate law that not one penny could be spent without committing a crime on any investigation Mueller is undertaking until he shows us what authority he has.

You can't just give somebody unbridled authority, and then he doesn't even have to report to anybody unless it is the person who was disqualified that appointed him to be special counsel when he, himself, should have been disqualified. If he had had any decency or ethics about him he would have said: "Do you know what? This is going to involve Russia. I was involved in the Russia investigation. I was FBI Director and, actually, there are some touchy issues there I was involved in, and I could be a witness because, you know, actually, the truth is we closed up information so that the sale could go through that Russia would get our uranium, and then Hillary Clinton and the Clinton Foundation get \$145 million. So, yeah, I was really involved in that."

The last people who ought to be involved in an investigation now as special counsel about Russia would be Robert Mueller, Weissmann, and Rosenstein, but there they are, back together, investigating, while the statute of limitations is running out on any potential crime they may have committed that should be investigated by a second special counsel.

I have been saying this for a year now: We need a second special counsel. This is serious stuff, and people across the country, even some Democratic friends of mine, are realizing: Wait a minute. Trump's not getting the same treatment that Hillary Clinton got. It is pretty clear there are two different standards of justice.

Some people who care about justice—and, yeah, they are politically involved, but they care about righteousness and justice—don't want to see us

go into being a Third World banana republic, which it appears to much of the world we have moved into becoming.

This latest allegation Mueller throws out about tampering with a witness, well, you know, under section 1512: If you kill or attempt to kill somebody, it might be a witness—nope, that doesn't apply.

Or if you use physical force or threat of physical force—no, that didn't apply.

Cause or induce a person to withhold testimony—no, didn't do any of that.

Didn't hinder, delay, prevent communication—nope.

Let's see. Well, did he knowingly use intimidation, threats, or corruptly persuade? No. No, that really didn't apply.

All right. How about whoever corruptly alters, destroys, mutilates? No, he didn't do any of that.

So how about obstructs or influences or impedes any official proceeding? No, really didn't do that, didn't attempt to do so.

Or intentionally harasses another person, thereby hinders, delays, prevents, or dissuades anyone from attending or testifying—nope, that didn't happen.

Reporting to law enforcement—nope, that didn't happen. He didn't even turn the message over to the FBI.

Arresting or seeking to arrest—nope.

Now, Mueller may be involved in these, but it doesn't sound like Manafort is.

Causing a criminal prosecution—no, none of those apply. Oh, well, maybe. Oh, that is an affirmative defense.

You know, there is something Mueller's good at: scare people, throw out highbrow allegations just trying to intimidate.

It is like the Federal judge said, Mueller's folks don't care, and Mueller doesn't care about Manafort, anything that happened 20 years ago. We have seen it throughout Mueller's history. He finds somebody, whether it is Steven Hatfill, Ted Stevens, Curt Weldon, you know, people who got put in jail for crimes Whitey Bulger was involved in, though he was their FBI informant. I mean, he finds people he dislikes, and then he goes about trying to find a crime that he can pin on them.

And even if they are not really guilty, he is fine with keeping people in prison for crimes they didn't commit if he thinks they are not good people, he doesn't like them. That is how he could tell President Bush that he was 100 percent certain Dr. Steven Hatfill was the guy that was the anthrax killer. He didn't like him. No evidence—none, zero—yet they destroyed the guy's life.

So it cost taxpayers—Mueller's actions, other people's actions in Boston—\$100 million for the way he destroyed Steven Hatfill's life, another \$6 million or so payout. You know, he leaves a terrible wake of devastation, lives wrecked, and he doesn't care.

The one thing he is consistent in saying is: I don't owe anybody an apology for anything I have done.

Yeah, it is the way bullies are.

Well, we have got another problem here in the House. We had an IT worker named Imran Awan, who worked for between 40 and 50 of my Democratic colleagues. Now, he sent, apparently, over \$100,000 back to Pakistan where he still has family, and he got that from a loan here in the U.S., and he is charged with making a false statement to get the loan.

Yet that is a fraction of what we find from just the reporting of Luke Rosiak, the Daily Caller, this article from October 3, 2017. Unfortunately, the only thing they have indicted Mr. Awan for is basically making a false statement to get a loan, things related to that. But there are dozens and dozens of felonies in which he is implicated from his work here on Capitol Hill.

□ 2030

This article says: "A now-indicted IT aide to various House Democrats was sending money and gifts to government officials in Pakistan and received protection from the Pakistani police, multiple relatives claim."

"A Democratic aide also said Imran Awan personally bragged to him that he could have people tortured in Pakistan. Awan's lawyer acknowledged that he was sending money to a member of the Faisalabad police department, but said there was a good explanation."

"The relatives said Awan and his brothers were also sending IT equipment, such as iPhones, to the country during the same period in which fraudulent purchase orders"—and by the way, from what we have seen, there were clearly dozens of fraudulent purchase orders.

Say, for example, an iPad cost \$799 and Awan puts down it is \$499 as a cost, maybe \$300 for an insurance policy or something, but \$499, that means it is under the \$500 limit for things that do not have to be kept in inventory. So, as long as Awan kept prices on these invoices below \$500, he didn't have to have a listing of all of the equipment.

So he could keep buying iPads, iPhones, and all of these kinds of things for different Members of Congress' offices, and there is no record kept of where those items are. They don't record the serial numbers or anything, as long as it is \$499. The trouble for Mr. Awan is, every time he put \$499 on one invoice for something that costs \$799, it is a Federal felony, and he is implicated in dozens of these. The evidence abounds.

Yet some of us had an informal hearing and heard testimony about this matter, and he was bragging to people about all of the iPhones and iPads he was sending to Pakistan to the police there, to intelligence friends there, these kinds of things. And because he listed them at \$499, they are not on an inventory so they don't have to be written off when they disappear. That is pretty handy.

But the FBI has had opportunities to have those invoices presented to them.

And each time they have instructed: Don't bring any of those documents. We don't want to see any of that. We just want to talk to you. And as I understand, even this week, they continued to report—the FBI investigating—that, yeah, we still found no evidence of anything other than this false statement on a loan. Why? Because they have instructed: We don't want to see the documents that prove those cases.

They are readily available for anybody, any Federal officer who wants to see them, but they don't want to see them. So they can keep reporting to the new U.S. attorney that there is no evidence. No, there is just nothing there. They can tell the Attorney General, yeah, we have looked into it, and there is nothing there.

And yet we hear from the reporter, he continues to talk to the witnesses—Luke Rosiak—and it was 80 percent of the witnesses that have personal information about the crimes the Awan cartel—crime family, whatever you want to call it—have committed, was 80 percent; now between 70 and 80 percent of those witnesses have never been interviewed by the FBI.

That way they can still report to the new U.S. attorney, to the Attorney General; we looked into it. There is nothing there. There is no evidence. Yeah, because you don't want to look at it. It abounds. And then when we hear that Mr. Awan is spreading the word among his friends from Pakistan that: I have just got to get this deal done and work out a plea where I don't get jail time, and I am already assured I will be able to work back on the Hill.

I was staggered to find out when we took testimony that actually about 3 to 9 months of every year for the last 13 or 14 years that Mr. Awan has been doing work as a computer technician for 40 to 50 Democrats here on the Hill, that he had never had a background check, but 3 to 9 months out of each year he was in Pakistan, and he was using the Pakistani internet to work on three or four dozen Members of Congress' computer systems.

We also learned that, at one point, they put over 40 Members of Congress' data on one server so that anybody that Awan wanted to could access the server and get information on all of these other people. And what happened? Well, that server with that serial number has disappeared, but the FBI has no interest whatsoever—at least so far—in investigating what happened to the server on which Awan put 40-plus Members of Congress' data.

One, we do know some of the files that existed. We don't know what were in the files, but Awan had actually organized files that had Members of Congress' emails in them. Well, gee, why would Awan want to take Members of Congress' emails and put them in one file? That sure would make it easy if you were going to transfer somebody's emails to somebody else. You just put them all in a file. Put them on one server that lots of people have access to.

It is phenomenal the kind of breach that has occurred on the Hill. There are two kinds of justices, and it breaks my heart. There is the Hillary Clinton kind of investigation, and there is the Donald Trump investigation.

This is really tragic. So taxpayers are paying for Imran Awan's lawyer because he says he is destitute. Yet he sent \$100,000 or more over to Pakistan in one transaction, and we know that he has property listed in his bankruptcy. We know that he was in business, took a loan from a guy from Pakistan who has known ties to Hezbollah, and they owed him money.

We can't seem to get the FBI interested in that. There are too many holdovers, apparently, from Mueller's day, and Comey's day. We need to know what was compromised.

And I don't care who the person works for, congressional computers should not be serviced from Pakistan. From information and belief, folks that should know, they tell me Pakistan would be one of the last places you would want somebody getting into congressional computer systems.

He said: Well, what difference does it make? It is just emails and calendars. Well, there are people that would pay a lot of money to have all of the emails from a Member of Congress. We just need the FBI more interested.

Again, I understand, the last guy that started making charges talking about FBI's lack of duty, he ended up being defeated by the FBI raid on his office and his daughter's office 2 weeks before the election. I understand, but somebody has got to stand up and say: Right is right. Wrong is wrong.

There are so many FBI agents that have given their lives, day after day, not making the kind of money they could elsewhere, but enforcing the law. And to have people like Mueller and Comey come along and put a blot on the reputation they poured their honest lives into is a travesty. And the only way we remove the blots is to call out those and make them responsible for the damage that they have done. And it is not happening.

Anyway, I realize I am running out of time. Luke Rosiak has great information here. He has done so much more investigation than the FBI has. I know there are a lot of FBI agents that I know personally that could take this case.

I mean, just not listing a piece of property in your forms here that you have to file, the financial disclosure, could be a crime if you do it intentionally. Sometimes you forget, but for heaven's sake, he didn't forget when he filed bankruptcy. He has got property. He has got all kinds of things that he has never listed, and those are the kinds of things that are important when people are servicing congressional computers. People need to know.

We need people that will be honest enough not to lie to the U.S. attorney and not to lie to the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General—I don't

guess it matters to them—but for other people who are honest and trying to follow and enforce the law and the Constitution as their oath requires.

We need a second special counsel. We need to investigate Rosenstein, Mueller, Comey, and Weissmann. And we need somebody assigned to the Awan case that will protect Congress from further breaches and from the Awan crime family for the future.

Now, today, there was a continuance filed moving Awan's hearing from this Thursday to July 3. It sounds like they are trying to do just what Awan has been bragging, that he is going to get a deal. It is not going to say anything about all of the breaches of security, all of the felonies committed in the forms that he filed, none of that. And so he is telling people—at least he has assured people—he can come right back and start servicing dozens of Members' computers on the Hill again. For heaven's sake, we need somebody in the FBI to step up and do their job.

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

AFFORDABLE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

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.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government became heavily involved in the Nation's postsecondary education system when Congress passed the Higher Education Act of 1965.

Over time, well-intentioned but misdirected policies and requirements have put special interests ahead of students' interests. It is time to develop a system designed to support students in completing an affordable postsecondary education that will prepare them to enter the workforce with the skills they need for lifelong success.

The Education and the Workforce Committee is moving us in that direction, Mr. Speaker, by passing last December the PROSPER Act. The PROSPER Act, the word "PROSPER" stands for: Promoting Real Opportunity, Success, and Prosperity through Education Reform.

□ 2045

It is a really apt title for what it is that the committee is proposing. I emphasize this is a work of the Education and the Workforce Committee and the 23 Republican Members who are on that committee.

What the PROSPER Act does is it expands student access to higher education in many different ways:

It allows students to use Federal student aid, including Pell grants, for shorter term programs that will help students get into the workforce more quickly.

It expands the availability of industry-led earn-and-learn programs that lead to high-wage, high-skill, and high-demand careers.

It improves early awareness of postsecondary Federal financial aid options for students in high school.

It makes the application for Federal student aid easier for middle class families by streamlining the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, making the FAFSA available on a mobile application and ensuring both the app and the online form are consumer tested, clear, and easy to use. We hear from parents all the time about how difficult the FAFSA is to complete.

It repeals unfair requirements that limit low-income students' access to career-focused institutions.

It supports at-risk and minority students by reforming the TRIO programs to better evaluate the effectiveness of these programs, expand access to these programs for students, and encourage institutions to create programs using evidence-based innovations like P4Success.

The PROSPER Act improves student aid in the following ways: simplifying student aid into one grant program, one loan program, and one workstudy program to ease confusion for students who are deciding the best options available to pay for their college educations.

Let me give you an example, Mr. Speaker, of the complications of the loan programs as they currently exist. There are six different loan programs, nine repayment options, and 32 deferment and forbearance options. What has that gotten us? It has gotten students \$1.4 trillion into debt. We find that unacceptable, and PROSPER will help change that.

We give a Pell grant bonus to recipients who enroll in the number of credits necessary to complete their education in what is considered on time. That will vary: for students in community colleges, 2 years; and for students in a baccalaureate program, 4 years.

We add \$14.5 billion back into students' pockets by eliminating hidden origination fees on Federal student loans that add unnecessary costs to college.

Mr. Speaker, I talk every day to Members who have been misled by colleges and universities in their districts about what PROSPER does. Many well-meaning, I am sure, administrators and college presidents are calling Members and saying: The PROSPER Act cuts financial aid for students.

Mr. Speaker, it does nothing of the sort. Because of the way we restructure the loan programs, however, it does

save the taxpayers, right now, based on CBO's score, \$15 billion. However, it makes available to students 12 million more dollars just in financial aid, not to count what we are talking about in the \$14.5 billion in origination fees.

By providing access to a new ONE Loan with reasonable loan limits and creating an easily accessible income-based repayment option, it offers an affordable monthly payment option to all borrowers, and it caps interest accrual. This is something else that the schools misunderstand. We do help the students with their loan programs not while they are in school, but when they are out of school.

Many people have misunderstood the legislation and the wording in the PROSPER Act, so I have encouraged my colleagues to share with me the concerns they hear from colleges and universities so we can make sure that what they are being told are the facts and not either a misunderstanding of the legislation, because people aren't used to reading the legislation, or an out-and-out fabrication of what is in the bill.

We reward the institutions in the workstudy program by helping the most vulnerable students complete their education and expand the ability of students to receive Federal workstudy dollars while gaining valuable work experience in a field of their choice.

Mr. Speaker, I have been in education for a long, long time. I know 40-some years ago we had studies that showed that students who participated in the workstudy program made better grades, made better use of their time, graduated at a higher rate, and were much more likely to get a job after graduation. What we do is we actually double the amount of money in the workstudy program and allow a portion of that money to be used by students in an industry- and institution-approved program in the private sector.

We all know that internships often turn into jobs, and we know it is much more likely that a student would get a job in the private sector if he or she is able to do an internship and workstudy funds can be used to cover those internships.

Another thing that the PROSPER Act does is it reimagines how institutions best serve students in these ways, providing students access to new providers of postsecondary education by allowing those providers to partner with traditional colleges and universities for up to 100 percent of a student's educational program.

We are living in a vastly changing world with all types of opportunities available now to students to gain an education and to gain the skills they need. We need to stop living in the 16th century, as much of education is doing in this country, and come up to speed with what is available to us through technology.

We, in the PROSPER Act, encourage competency-based education by cre-

ating a clear pathway for competency-based education programs to be eligible for Federal student aid to help students attain a less costly degree based on their own learning rather than time spent in a seat.

Mr. Speaker, when I taught many years ago at Appalachian State University, at Mayland Community College, and at Caldwell Community College, I often encouraged students to participate in activities outside the classroom because so much impressive learning can go on outside of sitting in a seat listening to a teacher lecturing. We need to do more of that.

Students, again, have access to so many opportunities where they could be deemed proficient in an area and be able to get credit for that which would speed up their earning a degree.

We repeal the antiquated and rigid definition of distance education making it possible for institutions to develop more creative methods of delivering postsecondary education.

We allow, through the PROSPER Act, minority-serving institutions and Historically Black Colleges and Universities to use grant funds for certain initiatives such as pay for success, dual enrollment, and the development of career-centered programs.

It is time, again, Mr. Speaker, for us to acknowledge that there are many, many opportunities out there for students to gain the skills that they need to be able to be certified and be able to get the credentials that they need to lead a successful life in our country, and what we are doing with the PROSPER Act is advancing those opportunities.

I want to quote from an article that was recently published that encourages the passage of the PROSPER Act. The article was written by Rachelle Peterson, who is the policy director at the National Association of Scholars, and I am going to give a few quotes from that article.

She says: "It has been 53 years since President Lyndon Johnson signed the Higher Education Act into law, and 10 years since it was reauthorized, under President Obama. Over the years, the law—which touches nearly every aspect of higher education—has turned into a special interest bonanza. It shields traditional colleges from marketplace competition, weaves a labyrinthine web of student aid options, packs on the pork, and in the last administration served as a pretext for the Department of Education to invent politically charged regulations."

I couldn't have said it better myself, Mr. Speaker.

She goes on to say: "The PROSPER Act . . . would streamline Federal programs, relax burdensome regulations, forbid the Secretary of Education from acting outside the scope of the law, and protect the key principles of free speech and religious freedom."

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to get a package of legislation that would do all of those things, but she goes on: "Today,

my organization, the National Association of Scholars, released a top-to-bottom review of the PROSPER Act, concluding that it represents the best opportunity to reform higher education in decades. With a few tweaks, the PROSPER Act should be passed at once. Two especially important areas—Federal student aid reform and protections for freedom of speech and association—show why.”

I am very, very grateful to the National Association of Scholars and Rachelle Peterson for her kind words about the PROSPER Act.

She goes on to say: “Currently, Federal student aid is a complicated system that encourages students to take on unmanageable debt and incentivizes colleges to raise tuition.”

She mentions the different loan programs, grants, and ways to get loans forgiven. She talks about the PROSPER Act simplifying Federal student aid, reining in costs, and making it easier for students to see their options.

She goes on to say: “PROSPER also gives colleges ‘skin in the game’ by making them financial stakeholders in students’ success. Individual programs whose students have low loan repayment rates would become ineligible for accepting Federal student loans, forcing these low-performing programs either to improve their quality or to lower their costs. When students drop out, colleges would become liable to repay a portion of the students’ Federal aid, creating an incentive to adopt high admissions standards.”

She goes on to say: “. . . the PROSPER Act does a remarkable job of cutting bureaucratic overgrowth to return Federal student aid to its core purpose: helping students who are prepared for college find ways to afford it. . . .”

□ 2100

She goes on and on. I am not going to continue to quote from her, but I include in the RECORD this material so that every person reading the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD has an opportunity to read her excellent article.

[From The Hill, May 23, 2018]

CONGRESS, PASS THE PROSPER ACT FOR
FEDERAL STUDENT AID REFORM

(By Rochelle Peterson)

It has been 53 years since President Lyndon Johnson signed the Higher Education Act into law, and 10 years since it was reauthorized, under President Obama. Over the years, the law—which touches nearly every aspect of higher education—has turned into a special interest bonanza. It shields traditional colleges from marketplace competition, weaves a labyrinthine web of student aid options, packs on the pork, and in the last administration served as a pretext for the Department of Education to invent politically charged regulations.

The PROSPER Act, introduced in December by Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-N.C.), would reauthorize the Higher Education Act and clean up the mess it has become. The bill would streamline federal programs, relax burdensome regulations, forbid the Secretary of Education from acting outside the scope of the law, and protect the key principles of free speech and religious freedom.

Today, my organization, the National Association of Scholars released a top-to-bottom review of the PROSPER Act, concluding that it represents the best opportunity to reform higher education in decades. With a few tweaks, the PROSPER Act should be passed at once. Two especially important areas—federal student aid reform and protections for freedom of speech and association—show why.

Currently, federal student aid is a complicated system that encourages students to take on unmanageable debt and incentivizes colleges to raise tuition. The system has six loan programs, numerous grants, and some four dozen options for paying off or getting loans forgiven.

The PROSPER Act simplifies federal student aid, reining in costs and making it easier for students to see their options. It caps the amount of money parents and students can borrow from the federal government. It streamlines federal student aid into a single loan program, a single grant program, and a single repayment program. It eliminates special interest projects, such as public service loan forgiveness, which privileged government employees by forgiving their loans after 10 years of payments.

PROSPER also gives colleges “skin in the game” by making them financial stakeholders in students’ success. Individual programs whose students have low loan repayment rates would become ineligible for accepting federal student loans, forcing these low-performing programs either to improve their quality or to lower their costs. When students drop out, colleges would become liable to repay a portion of the students’ federal aid, creating an incentive to adopt high admissions standards.

The bill misses some important elements of student aid reform, such as making income-share agreements enforceable and requiring colleges to spend a minimum percentage of endowment income. It also maintains the Department of Education’s monopoly on government student aid, rather than transferring financial authority to the states.

But overall, the PROSPER Act does a remarkable job of cutting bureaucratic overgrowth to return federal student aid to its core purpose: helping students who are prepared for college find ways to afford it, without driving up costs.

The PROSPER Act also takes an important stand for freedom of speech and association, principles that colleges have recently given scant attention. The Act prevents colleges from discriminating against religious student groups by denying them official recognition and other standard benefits, such as access to campus facilities. And it protects the rights of religious institutions to govern themselves in a manner consistent with their religious missions.

The PROSPER Act also addresses the need for free speech on campus, although its policy changes, while laudable, need to be shored up. Currently, many colleges designate “free speech zones” as the only places students and faculty can engage in public speech. In response, the PROSPER Act offers the “sense of Congress” that free speech zones are “inherently at odds” with the First Amendment—a principled though legally unenforceable statement.

A key amendment by Rep. Tom Garrett (R-Va.) requires colleges and universities to disclose any speech codes, providing sunlight that will help watchdog organizations and free speech litigators target bad campus policies. The amendment also authorizes the secretary of Education to investigate colleges that are accused of using unpublished rules or selective enforcement to target certain types of speech. This is important for

students whose free speech has been abridged, because they currently have little recourse but to file a lawsuit, an expensive and time-consuming endeavor.

These are key changes that go a long way toward restoring freedom of speech on campus. But no bill is perfect, and the PROSPER Act misses some opportunities. It should also authorize the secretary of Education to investigate whether colleges’ policies are actually conducive to free speech in the first place. Colleges should be required to report to Congress annually on the state of free speech on their campuses, including details on any violations of free speech, punishment for offenders, and steps taken to protect free speech going forward. Colleges repeatedly found to be malevolent at protecting free speech should lose eligibility for Title IV federal student aid.

Students deserve a college education that is rigorous, affordable, dedicated to intellectual freedom, and focused on scholarship, not politicization. The PROSPER Act is a step in the right direction.

Ms. FOXX. My reason for doing this is to say that it is not just members of the committee, it is not just Members of Congress who support the PROSPER Act. It is people who understand the situation that exists in our country and want to see us make things better for students.

Mr. Speaker, I grew up extraordinarily poor, but I knew that education was my key to getting out of poverty. I had to work hard, but I also had to get credentials. In this day and time, we know that having credentials is more important than ever.

So I want to say again, the PROSPER Act, which stands for Promoting Real Opportunities, Success, and Prosperity through Education Reform, is a key to doing that. This will do more to help poor students get out of poverty than almost anything that I have seen in a long, long time.

Every Member of Congress hears every day that employers do not have people to fill the 6 million jobs that are out there that are vacant right now. What we do with PROSPER is make it possible for 7 million more students to get Pell Grants. And part of our reason for doing that is to help students get into short-term programs that will give them skills, give them credentials, and allow them to build on those skills over time, hopefully, to create a degree.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, what we are doing with PROSPER is allowing people to be able to get to participate in short-term programs where they will gain skills that will make them employable. They will be able to build on their credentials over time and, we hope, become life-long learners and ultimately earn degrees.

But the main thing is, we have right now 6.6 million jobs vacant in this country. We have employers crying for people to fill those jobs. They cannot find those people now in this country. We have many people who could fill the jobs if they were able to gain the skills for them. By opening up Pell Grants to 7 million more students, we think we will get a match.

It is clear right now, Mr. Speaker, that post-secondary education is unworkable for far too many individuals trying to enter the workforce. Americans deserve a better system that works for them.

The PROSPER Act advances bold, commonsense solutions that will transform post-secondary education, better serve students, protect taxpayers, and set America up for long-term economic success.

We are doing things in the bill that colleges and universities asked us to do. We are getting the Federal Government out of the way by repealing outdated Federal regulations and prohibiting the Secretary from exceeding her authority under the law.

Again, the institutions have asked us for this. By doing this, everybody wins, Mr. Speaker. The PROSPER Act simplifies and improves Federal student aid by moving to one grant, one loan, one workstudy system, making it easier for students to understand their options. The bill encourages institutions to evolve, but holds them responsible by rethinking the post-secondary education accountability system.

The bottom line is this bill is about getting people into jobs with the skills they need to succeed. To do that, it cuts through the morass of Federal red tape, eliminates the maze of Federal aid programs, and unleashes innovation to a sector stuck in the 20th century—I would argue maybe even the 19th century.

I am going to make one or two more general comments about what PROSPER does, because I think it is so important that the American people understand what it is we are attempting to do here.

Since 2007, Mr. Speaker, the published in-state tuition and fees at institutions increased at an average rate of 3.2 percent beyond inflation. If that had happened with the average automobile in this country, the average car today would be costing \$80,000, instead of probably about \$27,000. That is the

inflation that has occurred in post-secondary education.

We have a 6-year completion rate of only 54.8 percent. That is unacceptable, Mr. Speaker. Every year that a student is forced to stay in a college or university is costing that student \$68,000 in lost wages and tuition and fees.

The numbers go on and on. Eighty-one percent of parents say 4-year schools charge too much. Fifty-four percent of parents think 4-year schools are accessible to middle class Americans. In other words, many middle class Americans have given up on the hope of their child going on to school.

Only 13 percent of people in this country believe college graduates are well prepared for success in the workforce. Fewer than two in five managers believe college graduates are well-equipped for a job in their field.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, I made my living for a long time in education. I love education. I want everybody to get a great education. I know that it is the ticket to success in this country. But our current system is not working. What we do with the PROSPER Act, Promoting Real Opportunity, Success, and Prosperity through Education Reform will give Americans a much better chance to gain the skills they need and be successful.

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

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3249, PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 8, WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2018; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5895, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

Mr. WOODALL (during the Special Order of Ms. FOXX), from the Com-

mittee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 115-711) on the resolution (H. Res. 918) providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 3249) to authorize the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 8) to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5895) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on June 5, 2018, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 3663. To designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Huntington, West Virginia, as the Hershel “Woody” Williams VA Medical Center.

H.R. 4910. To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, 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 10 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, June 6, 2018, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the first and second quarters of 2018, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DANIEL SILVERBERG, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 28 AND MAY 3, 2018

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Daniel Silverberg	4/29	5/03	Saudi Arabia		1,450.00		11,983.00				13,433.00
	5/03	5/03	Somalia								
Committee total					1,450.00		11,983.00				13,433.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2018

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at the right to so indicate and return. ☒¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. BILL SHUSTER, Chairman, May 22, 2018.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2018

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Richard Hudson	2/22	2/25	Austria				10,776.71				12,078.82
Mark Milosch	2/19	2/21	Poland	Zloty	485.84		4,344.12				4,829.96
	2/21	2/24	Austria	Euro	1,200.59						1,200.59
Committee total					2,988.54		15,120.83				18,109.37

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, Co-Chairman, May 15, 2018.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

4990. A letter from the Under Secretary, Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting a report entitled "Strategic and Critical Materials Operations Report To Congress: Operations under the Strategic and Critical Materials Stock Piling Act during Fiscal Year 2017", pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 98h-2(a); June 7, 1939, ch. 190, Sec. 11(a) (as amended by Public Law 103-35, Sec. 204(d)); (107 Stat. 103); to the Committee on Armed Services.

4991. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Kevin M. Donegan, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral 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.

4992. A letter from the Director, Defense Pricing/Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Repeal of DFARS Provision "Alternate A, System for Award Management" (DFARS Case 2017-D044) [Docket No.: DARS-2017-0015] (RIN: 0750-AJ54) received May 29, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

4993. A letter from the Director, Defense Pricing/Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Repeal of DFARS Provision "Alternative Line Item Structure" (DFARS Case 2017-D045) [Docket No.: DARS-2017-0016] (RIN: 0750-AJ55) received May 29, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

4994. A letter from the Director, Defense Pricing/Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — De-

fense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Repeal of DFARS Clause "Right of First Refusal of Employment-Closure of Military Installations" (DFARS Case 2018-D002) [Docket No.: DARS-2018-0032] (RIN: 0750-AJ54) received May 29, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

4995. A letter from the Director, Defense Pricing/Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Repeal of DFARS Provision "Representation Regarding Combating Trafficking in Persons" (DFARS Case 2018-D003) [Docket No.: DARS-2018-0016] (RIN: 0750-AJ67) received May 29, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

4996. A letter from the Director, Defense Pricing/Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Repeal of Restrictions on Chemical Weapons Antidote (DFARS Case 2018-D006) [Docket No.: DARS-2018-0025] (RIN: 0750-AJ70) received May 29, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

4997. A letter from the Director, Defense Pricing/Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Delegation of Special Emergency Procurement Authority (DFARS Case 2018-D024) [Docket No.: DARS-2018-0026] (RIN: 0750-AJ86) received May 29, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

4998. A letter from the Director, Defense Pricing/Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Modification of DFARS Clause "Riding Gang Member Requirements" (DFARS Case 2018-D026) [Docket No.: DARS-2018-0030] (RIN: 0750-AJ88) received May 29, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public

Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

4999. A letter from the Director, Defense Pricing/Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Micro-Purchase Threshold (DFARS Case 2017-D027) [Docket No.: DARS-2018-0027] (RIN: 0750-AJ34) received May 29, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5000. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report entitled "Report in Response to the Sunscreen Innovation Act (P.L. 113-195) Section 586G"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5001. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 22-376, "Anna Cooper House TOPA Exemption Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5002. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 22-377, "Lawrence E. Boone Elementary School Designation Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5003. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 22-375, "Closing of a Public Alley in Square 221, S.O. 17-26363, Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5004. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 22-374, "Pools Without Penalties Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5005. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 22-373, "Home Composting Incentives Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5006. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 22-346, "Walter Alley Designation Act of

2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5007. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 22-347, "Medical Marijuana Certified Business Enterprise Preference Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5008. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 22-348, "Ernest Everett Just Court Designation Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5009. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 22-349, "Lois Mailou Jones Alley Designation Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5010. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 22-350, "Watkins Alley Designation Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5011. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 22-351, "Israel Baptist Church Way Designation Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5012. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 22-352, "Business Improvement Districts Tax Exemption Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5013. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 22-353, "Parcel F1 Easement Disposition Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5014. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 22-354, "Swampoodle Park Designation Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5015. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 22-372, "Closing of a Public Alley in Square 5196, S.O. 17-26544, Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5016. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 22-371, "Closing of Public Alley in Square 748, S.O. 16-21105, Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5017. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 22-364, "Personal Delivery Device Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5018. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 22-370, "405 53rd Street, N.E., Disposition Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5019. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 22-365, "Grocery Store Restrictive Covenant Prohibition Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5020. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 22-369, "Solar Expansion for Cooperative Associations Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5021. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 22-368, "Study of Mental Health and Substance Abuse in Immigrant Communities Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5022. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 22-367, "Consumer Protection Clarification and Enhancement Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5023. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 22-366, "Maternal Mental Health Task Force Establishment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5024. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting DC Act 22-355, "Southwest Waterfront Exemption Temporary Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5025. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report to the Congress for the reporting period October 1, 2017, through March 31, 2018, pursuant to Sec. 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5026. A letter from the Director, Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting the Commission's Office of the Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress for the period October 1, 2017, through March 31, 2018, pursuant to Sec. 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5027. A letter from the Acting Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting a report titled "Comprehensive Inventory of U.S. Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Natural Gas Resources — 2018 Update", pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 15912(b); Public Law 109-58, Sec. 357(b); (119 Stat. 720); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5028. A letter from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting the Department's twelfth annual report to Congress on crime victims' rights, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 3771 note; Public Law 108-405, Sec. 104(a); (118 Stat. 2265); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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. FRELINGHUYSEN: Committee on Appropriations. Report on the Suballocation of Budget Allocations for Fiscal Year 2019 (Rept. 115-710). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WOODALL: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 918. Resolution providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 3249) to authorize the

Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 8) to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5895) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes (Rept. 115-711). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. BORDALLO (for herself, Mr. SOTO, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CRIST, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. HANABUSA, Ms. GABBARD, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. PLASKETT, and Mr. MAST):

H.R. 5996. A bill to reauthorize and amend the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DELBENE (for herself, Mrs. WALORSKI, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. CÁRDENAS):

H.R. 5997. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to ensure prompt coverage of breakthrough devices under the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 5998. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a loan repayment program under which health professionals agree to conduct prevention activities, as employees of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, in consideration of the Federal Government agreeing to make payments on the principal and interest of the educational loans of such health professionals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BUDD:

H.R. 5999. A bill to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise section 230.163 of title 17, United States Code, to apply the exemption offered in such section to communications made by underwriters and dealers acting by or on behalf of a well-known seasoned issuer; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CONAWAY:

H.R. 6000. A bill to provide for the transfer of the TARAWA class amphibious ship USS NASSAU (LHA-4) to Japan; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CONAWAY (for himself and Mr. RYAN of Ohio):

H.R. 6001. A bill to safeguard certain technology and intellectual property in the United States from export to or influence by the People's Republic of China and to protect United States industry from unfair competition by the People's Republic of China, and

for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, the Judiciary, Foreign Affairs, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CROWLEY:

H.R. 6002. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to establish a grant program for the construction of schools in overcrowded areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ENGEL:

H.R. 6003. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for enhanced penalties for the transmission of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information with the intent to trigger an emergency response; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia (for himself and Mr. TURNER):

H.R. 6004. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option of providing medical assistance at a residential pediatric recovery center to infants with neonatal abstinence syndrome; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. MOORE, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. COHEN, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. SOTO, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas):

H.R. 6005. A bill to establish a grant program under the Federal Aviation Administration to improve the preparation and representation of certain students in aviation-related fields; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. KING of Iowa:

H.R. 6006. A bill to direct the Commissioner of Social Security to implement certain record keeping recommendations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KING of Iowa:

H.R. 6006. A bill to direct the Commissioner of Social Security to implement certain record keeping recommendations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LAMALFA (for himself and Mr. McCLINTOCK):

H.R. 6007. A bill to release certain Federal land in California from wilderness study, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. McEACHIN (for himself and Mr. JONES):

H.R. 6008. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to withdraw the outer Continental Shelf in the Mid-Atlantic planning area from disposition, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 6009. A bill to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to provide for the automatic appointment of judges to the District of Columbia courts without the advice and consent of the Senate, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, 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. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. PERRY, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. PITTENGER, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN):

H.R. 6010. A bill to require an unclassified interagency report on the political influence operations of the Chinese Government and Communist Party with respect to the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WESTERMAN (for himself, Ms. BASS, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Ms. JENKINS of Kansas):

H.R. 6011. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to authorize a court to reduce the term of imprisonment imposed on certain defendants convicted as an adult for an offense committed and completed before the defendant attained 18 years of age, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ZELDIN (for himself and Mr. GOTTHEIMER):

H.J. Res. 135. A joint resolution supporting Israel's right to defend its borders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BIGGS (for himself, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BUDD, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. BLUM, Mr. BRAT, Mr. BUCK, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. YOHIO, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. PERRY, Mr. JONES, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. POSEY, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. WALKER, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Mr. DESANTIS):

H. Res. 919. A resolution recognizing the national debt as a threat to national security; to the Committee on the Budget, 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. NORTON (for herself and Mr. HASTINGS):

H. Res. 920. A resolution expressing support for the designation of June as National Gun Violence Awareness Month, and calling on Congress to address gun violence; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. NORTON (for herself and Mr. HASTINGS):

H. Res. 920. A resolution expressing support for the designation of June as National Gun Violence Awareness Month, and calling on Congress to address gun violence; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. NORTON (for herself and Mr. BROWN of Maryland):

H. Res. 921. A resolution expressing support for the designation of 2018 as the "Year of the Anacostia" and recognizing the Washington metropolitan area's efforts and partnerships to restore the Anacostia River watershed; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

205. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Oklahoma, relative to Enrolled House Joint Resolution 1043, requesting the Congress of the United

States call a convention of the states to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. BORDALLO:

H.R. 5996.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. DELBENE:

H.R. 5997.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

(a) Article I, Section 1, to exercise the legislative powers vested in Congress as granted in the Constitution; and

(b) Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, which gives Congress the authority "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof;

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 5998.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BUDD:

H.R. 5999.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, providing the power to "regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states."

By Mr. CONAWAY:

H.R. 6000.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. CONAWAY:

H.R. 6001.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. CROWLEY:

H.R. 6002.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. ENGEL:

H.R. 6003.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 1;
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1;
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3; and
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia:

H.R. 6004.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:

H.R. 6005.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the U.S. Constitution grants Congress the power to "lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common defense and general Welfare of the United States."

By Mr. KING of Iowa:

H.R. 6006.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1; Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. LAMALFA:

H.R. 6007.

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

Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2

By Mr. McEACHIN:

H.R. 6008.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 6009.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
clause 17 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 6010.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. WESTERMAN:

H.R. 6011.

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

Congress has the enumerated power to establish a judicial system. U.S. CONST. art. I, § 8, cl. 9.

By Mr. ZELDIN:

H.J. Res. 135.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 51: Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 57: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 62: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 66: Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 110: Mr. HASTINGS and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.

H.R. 173: Mr. GIANFORTE, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. HULTGREN, and Mr. HECK.

H.R. 184: Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 466: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 502: Mr. KNIGHT.

H.R. 592: Mr. HIGGINS of New York.

H.R. 750: Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 756: Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas.

H.R. 761: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 914: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.

H.R. 959: Mrs. LAWRENCE.

H.R. 975: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 1017: Mr. TURNER and Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 1150: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.

H.R. 1171: Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 1187: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 1271: Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 1300: Mr. GALLEGGO.

H.R. 1318: Mr. YODER and Ms. ADAMS.

H.R. 1322: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 1377: Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 1447: Mr. PANETTA.

H.R. 1511: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 1516: Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 1661: Mr. NORCROSS and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 1783: Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 1820: Mrs. LAWRENCE.

H.R. 1823: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1824: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1825: Mr. KING of Iowa.

H.R. 1861: Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 1881: Mr. SCHWEIKERT and Mr. ROSS.

H.R. 1904: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 1925: Mr. WALDEN.

H.R. 1939: Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 1953: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 1983: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 2092: Mr. SCHIFF and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.

H.R. 2095: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 2215: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 2290: Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 2315: Mr. BEYER.

H.R. 2418: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 2421: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 2439: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 2476: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 2587: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 2598: Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. POLIS, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. CROWLEY, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 2651: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2670: Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 2691: Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 2757: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 2784: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 2797: Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 2851: Mr. WALDEN.

H.R. 2853: Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 2856: Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H.R. 2913: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 3009: Mr. REED.

H.R. 3010: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 3013: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 3238: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.

H.R. 3303: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 3305: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 3348: Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 3378: Mr. GARAMENDI and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.

H.R. 3400: Mrs. WALORSKI.

H.R. 3464: Mr. COOPER, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 3478: Ms. NORTON and Ms. JAYAPAL.

H.R. 3497: Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 3528: Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 3666: Mr. OLSON and Ms. SINEMA.

H.R. 3692: Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 3730: Mr. LUCAS.

H.R. 3773: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 3861: Mr. RENACCI.

H.R. 3988: Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 4005: Mr. WALDEN.

H.R. 4018: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 4028: Mr. FASO.

H.R. 4044: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, and Ms. JENKINS of Kansas.

H.R. 4082: Ms. CLARKE of New York and Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 4094: Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 4129: Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 4143: Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 4202: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 4206: Mr. HOLDING.

H.R. 4253: Ms. DEGETTE and Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 4260: Ms. DEGETTE.

H.R. 4265: Mrs. WAGNER.

H.R. 4290: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 4362: Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 4419: Mr. ESTES of Kansas.

H.R. 4424: Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 4473: Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. GALLEGGO, Mr. O'HALLERAN, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 4525: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 4556: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 4638: Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 4691: Mr. DEFazio.

H.R. 4693: Mr. DEFazio.

H.R. 4704: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. MENG, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 4732: Mr. HUNTER, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 4737: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania and Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 4739: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 4779: Mr. CLAY, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 4786: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 4815: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

H.R. 4824: Mr. MEADOWS.

H.R. 4825: Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 4837: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 4893: Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 4897: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 4953: Ms. JENKINS of Kansas and Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 4978: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 5011: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 5034: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. CLAY, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 5038: Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 5041: Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 5105: Mr. GOODLATTE, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 5106: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 5125: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 5132: Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. MITCHELL.

H.R. 5141: Mr. McEACHIN, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. THOMAS J. ROONEY of Florida, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. PEARCE.

H.R. 5160: Mr. MARSHALL and Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 5176: Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 5281: Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 5282: Mr. HUDSON, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. COLE, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. BUDD, and Mr. FASO.

H.R. 5329: Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 5353: Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 5358: Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, and Mr. ARRINGTON.

H.R. 5365: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 5383: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 5385: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. LATTI, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 5413: Mr. DESANTIS.

H.R. 5414: Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 5431: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 5474: Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 5476: Mr. HECK.

H.R. 5517: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 5528: Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 5533: Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. TONKO, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JONES, and Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 5534: Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. ROYCE of California, Mr. MARCHANT, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, and Mr. TIPTON.

H.R. 5536: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 5553: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 5588: Ms. ESHOO and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.

H.R. 5606: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.

H.R. 5671: Mr. VELA, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 5684: Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 5694: Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. HUNTER, and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 5701: Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 5716: Mr. WALDEN.

H.R. 5717: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

H.R. 5723: Mr. SANFORD.

H.R. 5753: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 5761: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 5762: Mr. MEADOWS.

H.R. 5773: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.
 H.R. 5795: Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. TURNER, and Mr. CRAMER.
 H.R. 5796: Mr. ENGEL.
 H.R. 5814: Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
 H.R. 5857: Ms. MOORE and Mrs. DINGELL.
 H.R. 5889: Mr. BANKS of Indiana.
 H.R. 5899: Ms. CLARKE of New York and Mrs. DINGELL.
 H.R. 5900: Mr. DONOVAN.
 H.R. 5912: Mr. PETERSON and Ms. CLARKE of New York.
 H.R. 5920: Mr. VELA.
 H.R. 5922: Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 5924: Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 5941: Ms. MOORE and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
 H.R. 5942: Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. GABBARD, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, and Mr. JEFFRIES.
 H.R. 5950: Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. DELAURO, and Ms. TITUS.
 H.R. 5954: Mr. DEUTCH and Mr. GAETZ.
 H.R. 5958: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 5988: Mr. PETERSON, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. PERRY, Mr. GOODLATTE, and Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
 H.R. 5991: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
 H.J. Res. 61: Mr. CHABOT and Mr. PEARCE.
 H.J. Res. 91: Ms. BORDALLO.
 H. Con. Res. 8: Mr. RUSSELL.
 H. Con. Res. 10: Ms. KAPTUR.
 H. Con. Res. 72: Ms. NORTON.
 H. Con. Res. 119: Mr. MULLIN, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. PEARCE.
 H. Res. 15: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.
 H. Res. 28: Mr. BACON.
 H. Res. 31: Mr. BACON, Mr. CLAY, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mrs. DINGELL, Mrs. LOVE, and Mr. WELCH.
 H. Res. 199: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
 H. Res. 274: Ms. LEE.
 H. Res. 318: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.
 H. Res. 405: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
 H. Res. 750: Mr. BEN RAY LUJAN of New Mexico.
 H. Res. 766: Mr. PANETTA and Mr. DEFazio.
 H. Res. 871: Mr. NOLAN and Ms. KAPTUR.
 H. Res. 894: Mr. COFFMAN.
 H. Res. 907: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.
 H. Res. 915: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. SIRES, and Ms. ESHOO.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

105. The SPEAKER presented a petition of Mr. Gregory D. Watson, a citizen of Austin, TX, relative to remonstrating against the enactment of any legislation by Congress which would offer amnesty, forgiveness, or a path to citizenship, to any person who is not a citizen of the United States and who is physically within the United States in violation of the laws of the United States; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

106. Also, a petition of the Oberlin, OH City Council, relative to Resolution No. R18-04 CMS, calling on the U.S. Congress to introduce and then pass a carbon fee and dividend legislation and declaring an emergency; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.



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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Holy One, Light of Light, You continue to reveal Yourself to us. Because You know our thoughts before we think them, we lay before You our lives to be purified and strengthened by the power of Your Spirit. Lord, prepare us to absorb the fragrance of Your forgiveness, as we trust You to keep us from stumbling or slipping.

Today, use our lawmakers for Your glory. May they be salt and light to this generation. Give them the knowledge and wisdom to startle the world with the confidence of their hope in You and with the generosity of their love.

We pray in Your sacred 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 (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The majority leader is recognized.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, yesterday, the Senate advanced the nomination of Robert Wier to serve on the Eastern District Court of Kentucky by a vote of 90 to 1. This was a needless delay, but I look forward to confirming this well-qualified nominee later this morning.

Next, the Senate will turn to Fernando Rodriguez, Jr., the President's selection to be a U.S. district judge for the Southern District of Texas. Mr. Rodriguez is a graduate of Yale and the University of Texas. He earned recognition for his tireless efforts to combat human trafficking. His peers praise his work ethic and his knack for tackling complicated issues.

President Trump continues to send us impressive judicial nominees with sterling qualifications. I would urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting to promptly confirm this slate.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Now, on another matter, Madam President, the Senate took a major step forward on behalf of our national defense. After years of harmful spending caps undermining the combat readiness of our armed services, we brokered a 2-year spending agreement that included the largest year-on-year increase in defense funding in 15 years. This significant accomplishment laid out a roadmap to deliver on the promises we make to our warfighters. Now it is time to take the next step and authorize the programs that are most needed. That is why the Senate will soon be turning to the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act.

Each year, reviewing the President's budget request provides an opportunity to hear directly from our Nation's military leaders about their needs. Months of hearings and markups allow Congress to direct resources and authorize programs, equipping our brave service men and women to confront emerging challenges.

The Armed Services Committee should be commended for their earnest, bipartisan work this year. The legislation they have produced is strong.

Following our agreement that eliminated harmful and arbitrary caps on

defense spending, this legislation will add to the process of untying our commanders' hands. It authorizes \$716 billion for national defense, enough for the Department of Defense to implement the national defense strategy and replenish and modernize America's fighting forces—as long as we meet our overall responsibility and pass the Defense appropriations bill later this year.

This authorization would expand our capabilities on the sea and in the air, provide long-term certainty and support for our All-Volunteer Force, renew oversight efforts, streamline personnel management, modernize acquisitions, and eliminate duplicative and wasteful programs. It sends a clear message that we have our warfighters' backs. How fitting, then, that it is named for our colleague, Senator MCCAIN—a stalwart champion for our service men and women if this Chamber has ever seen one.

I look forward to discussing this legislation at length in the coming days.

JOB CREATION AND THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Mr. MCCONNELL. Now, on a final matter, Madam President, I spoke yesterday about the new job opportunities flooding into the U.S. economy. It is all thanks to the ingenuity of American workers and job creators, with an assist from Republican policies.

Just this year, more than 1 million new jobs have been created, more than 3 million new jobs since January of 2017. The unemployment rate has sunk to 3.8 percent. It hasn't been that low in 18 years. In a big shift from the deeply uneven Obama era, communities all across America are getting in on the action. Rural areas led the whole Nation in relative job creation last year. Let me say that again. Rural areas led the whole Nation in relative job creation last year. Republicans are proud of the historic tax reform and

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



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dramatic regulatory reform that helped make that happen.

In addition to these nationwide policies, we are also delivering targeted strategies to help the specific communities that have suffered the most.

In many parts of the country, including my home State of Kentucky, the Obama-era economic lag has intertwined with another major problem: the opioid epidemic. By one estimate, in 2016, more than 2 million Americans—2 million—were addicted to opioids.

This crisis that is shattering families and communities is not an isolated medical issue. There is a reason experts describe many of these fatalities as “deaths of despair.” It is, in part, a symptom of declining opportunity and communities literally falling apart. Recent studies suggest that opioid use increased the most in precisely the communities where employment rates have fallen the most, particularly in the manufacturing sector.

Complex problems demand comprehensive solutions, and that is exactly what this Congress will continue to deliver. We are attacking this from all angles. In a strong bipartisan fashion, we passed the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act and the 21st Century Cures Act to bolster prevention, treatment, and law enforcement. I recently introduced the CAREER Act to help recovering addicts find jobs and stable housing to get back on their feet, and the Senate allocated billions in resources for treatment and prevention on the frontlines.

The robust Federal response is helping our first responders and professionals combat the dangers of abuse, but, as is always the case, major challenges are rarely solved here in Washington. Congress can provide resources and support to vulnerable communities, but often we do the most good by getting government's foot off the brake and letting American innovators get back to business.

For example, I recently heard some great news from one private sector problem-solver in my home State of Kentucky. In my hometown, US WorldMeds has spent the last 15 years working to bring relief to millions of Americans touched by opioid addiction. They have been working on introducing a medicine in the United States to help ease the symptoms of withdrawal. Just last month, we got word that they have received FDA approval. US WorldMeds' CEO, Breck Jones, believes this nonnarcotic medicine can help more addicts kick the habit altogether.

I had the opportunity to visit US WorldMeds' facility last year. I was so impressed by what I saw. Now that team can scale up their efforts and begin getting their treatment into the hands of Americans whose lives it could help transform—all of it made easier when Washington offers targeted support where it is needed but mostly gets out of the way of the innovators. Talk about a winning combination.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Robert Earl Wier, of Kentucky, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

RUSSIA INVESTIGATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, over the past few weeks, we have all endured the increasingly novel legal theories dreamt up by the President and his lawyers regarding the special counsel's investigation into the Russian interference in the 2016 election.

Over the weekend, we learned the President's lawyers wrote a memo that asserted unfettered authority over all Federal investigations. Rudy Giuliani actually suggested that the President could have “shot James Comey” and not been indicted or prosecuted because, according to him, “in no case can [the President] be subpoenaed or indicted.” Is that incredible?

The President himself tweeted yesterday that he had the absolute right to pardon himself and that the appointment of the special counsel was unconstitutional, despite the fact that he regularly called for a special counsel to look into Hillary Clinton during the 2016 campaign. The two-facedness, the hypocrisy of saying Hillary should have it but, no, it is unconstitutional now that it applies to him—how can the American people tolerate that kind of thinking in a President? This morning, again, President Trump faulted Attorney General Sessions for recusing himself from the probe instead of helping to end it.

The President's tweet regarding Attorney General Sessions this morning is part of a pattern where the President

admits out loud and shamelessly that he was trying to take steps to end the Russia probe. First, in a television interview, the President admitted that stopping the Russia probe was his motivation for firing Director Comey. Now he says he would never have hired Sessions if he had known he was going to recuse himself, even though recusal was required by Department of Justice rules.

This latest stunning admission is just more evidence that the President may have something to hide. If he did nothing wrong, President Trump should welcome a thorough investigation to exonerate him.

Each of the claims that I have mentioned has the same theme: That the President believes he is above the law. Of course, we know the idea that anyone in America is above the law is antithetical to the very idea of America, antithetical to the very idea of democracy, and antithetical to what millions of Americans have fought for and hundreds of thousands—millions—have died for in the course of our history. We don't have a King. We have a President, bound by the same Constitution and the same laws that govern the average American citizen.

The Founding Fathers didn't set out to create a monarchy; they set out to construct a system of government entirely distinct from the monarchies of their time. That is why they installed checks and balances and devolved power between three branches to ensure the liberty of the people and guard against the encroachment of tyranny. That was their great gift to us, and their ideas have kept American democracy alive for two and one-half centuries and the admiration of the world for an equal period of time. Trump is besmirching all of that with his recent activities.

So despite what the President and his allies may feel about his authority or his absolution from legal repercussions, the Constitution and the founding principles of our country tell us he is dead wrong. President Trump: We are not a monarchy. You are not a King. We are a constitutional democracy, so act like it.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Madam President, on another matter, this week the Senate is processing a number of judges. Some of these judges are noncontroversial. As I have said in the past, Democrats are committed to working with the majority to process these noncontroversial nominees, but there are several highly controversial nominees after this slate that bear attention.

Tomorrow, the Senate Judiciary Committee will consider the nomination of David Porter for the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, despite the fact that Senator CASEY has not returned a blue slip on Mr. Porter, who was nominated by the White House over the home State Senator's repeated objections. Mr. Porter, like so many of the nominees submitted by this President,

is far outside the judicial mainstream. Throughout his career, he has maintained affiliations with anti-LGBT organizations and expressed personal views that are contrary to the interests of American workers—the very people President Trump defends: the American working people. He appoints judges who undo their rights, their opportunities, their ladders up. This is an example. Unfortunately, the majority is, once again, bucking a century-old tradition of respecting the opposition of home State Senators and moving forward with the consideration of yet another hard-right, anti-working class ideologue.

On Thursday, the Judiciary Committee will consider the nomination of Ryan Bounds for a circuit court seat in Oregon, although neither Senator WYDEN nor Senator MERKLEY, the two Senators from Oregon, have returned a blue slip on his nomination. Recently, we learned that Mr. Bounds had some rather offensive writings that he failed to disclose to the bipartisan Federal Judicial Selection Advisory Committee established by the two Oregon Senators to recommend potential nominees. Nonetheless, of course, the Republican majority, prodded on by the hard-right ideologues, is moving ahead with his nomination, over the tradition of the blue slips, over these recent revelations.

Next week, the Senate will likely move to the pending nomination of Thomas Farr to the Eastern District of North Carolina, currently the longest vacancy in the United States. Part of the reason the State seat has remained open for so long is because Republican Senators blocked an Obama nominee, Jennifer May-Parker, for nearly 3 years. With Mr. Farr's nomination, we have another example of a vacancy that only exists because Democrats recognized and respected the blue-slip tradition—a tradition the Republicans have so unceremoniously discarded.

Not only has Mr. Farr spent his long legal career working against the rights of unions and the rights of workers to organize, Farr has demonstrated himself to be a partisan.

After challenging multiple congressional maps drawn by North Carolina's Democrats, Mr. Farr vigorously defended the most recent maps drawn by North Carolina's Republicans which, in fact, were overturned by the Supreme Court for discrimination. Mr. Farr also defended North Carolina's restrictive voter ID law passed by the Republicans, arguing that voter ID was a "minor inconvenience" for voters. Might I remind my colleagues, this is the same voter ID law that the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals determined was passed with "discriminatory intent" and which "targeted African Americans with almost surgical precision." Those are the Fourth Circuit's words, not mine. That is whom we are putting on the bench—people who support laws that blatantly discriminate against people of color. What are we

coming to in this country? Where are our ideals when it comes to picking people for the bench? I am sure they can find conservative folks who don't have these kinds of egregious pieces of behavior.

I have long argued that we should judge our judges on three metrics: excellence, moderation, and diversity. By dint of his legal career in defense of partisan Republican issues, Mr. Farr clearly lacks moderation and is even willing to defend the most strident attempts by North Carolina Republicans to game the congressional maps and make it more difficult for minorities to vote.

I will strongly—strongly—oppose his nomination, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

THE ECONOMY

Finally, Madam President, on the economy, during the 8 years of President Obama's term, Democrats worked to turn the economy around, to dig our country out of the recession, and get back to growing the economy and the middle class. Now that Republicans are in charge, their policies are almost the reverse.

Instead of focusing on the middle class and those struggling to get there, Republicans have elected to turn over the keys to big corporations and the superwealthy—their benefactors. Instead of trying to bring down the cost of everyday items, Republican economic policies have driven up the costs of things like healthcare and gasoline. By sabotaging our current healthcare system, President Trump and Republicans have caused insurance rates to increase by double digits across several States. Yesterday, insurers in the States of Washington and New York both announced an average rate increase of about 20 percent, similar to double-digit increases in Virginia and Maryland. Americans were already struggling with the high cost of healthcare before these increases. Republican policies have only made these problems worse.

What about gas prices? By pulling out of the Iran deal and failing to get tough with OPEC, President Trump has contributed to the increase in gas prices. He hangs out and seems to be friendly with the Crown Prince, head of the UAE, even President Putin. Why isn't he jawboning them, his so-called friends, to help the average American family not have to pay increases in the high price of gas?

President Trump was quick to blame President Obama when gas prices went up. Well, what is good for the goose is good for the gander. American families are now paying over \$3 for a gallon of gas in many places, and prices are expected to continue to rise over the summer.

Meanwhile, as costs go up for the middle class, in many, many cases far outweighing any break they got on the tax bill, corporations and the rich are reaping a windfall from the Republican tax bill. Listen to this. So far, in 2018,

corporations have announced plans to spend more than \$450 billion in corporate stock buybacks, a maneuver that directs profits into the pockets of wealthy executives and shareholders but does little for workers. Even Republican Senator MARCO RUBIO has said that "there's no evidence whatsoever" that the corporate tax cut Republicans passed last year is overwhelmingly benefiting workers."

In a nutshell, this is the new Republican economy: a bonanza for the corporations and the rich, higher costs for everybody else. In November, the American people will get to decide if they want a government that works on their behalf or more of the same top-down, trickle-down policies that have failed time and again—and are failing once again.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE REPUBLICAN-LED CONGRESS

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I want to take just a few minutes to talk about the last 18 months and what a Republican-led Congress has done during the first 500 days of the Trump administration.

I heard my friend the Democratic leader call this a Republican economy, and I am proud to embrace that for the reasons I will mention here in just a moment and contrast that to life in America postrecession, in 2008, where slow economic growth, high unemployment, and a disproportionate number of people not even seeking work were accepted as the new norm.

The American people understand they don't have to accept that as the new normal—that we can aspire to better, and we can do better, and that is exactly what we have seen manifested in the American economy. The rank-and-file American worker, every American family, and everybody in this country—regardless of race, ethnicity, whatever identity you might want to talk about—have benefited.

There have been many accomplishments, but perhaps the greatest, as I said, is the new energized state of the economy. There is a sense of hope and optimism once again. We can see that reflected in people's retirement accounts mainly invested in the stock market. The stock market has boomed since the Trump election, and that is not just for the big corporations. That is for the teachers, the pension funds, the firefighters, the first responders—for average Americans who invest their retirement savings in mutual funds or in the stock market—and they have benefited.

The unemployment rate has reached a 48-year low—a 48-year low—and 14 States have hit record low unemployment as well.

My friend from New York talked about gasoline prices. Oil output jumped to the highest on record in March, including a 4-percent increase in production in my home State. In

other words, we are depending less and less on imported oil from Saudi Arabia and Middle East countries, which have been the focus of our geopolitics for so many years because they have been the main source of the energy that drives the world economy, and now we are producing more of that here in America. That means more jobs and more national security right here at home.

Consumer confidence is at a 17-year high. People are feeling optimistic and hopeful about the future. Nearly 3 million jobs have been created since President Trump took office, including 304,000 in the manufacturing sector, 337,000 in construction, and 223,000 in May alone.

What I hear time and again when I go back to Texas is employers saying: We are having a hard time finding the workers we need because there is so much demand for workers, for laborers, that now employers are having to compete for the workforce they need in order to perform the jobs they have now, as a result of the growing economy. What does that mean? It means that paychecks go up as there are labor shortages, and employers have to compete more for that workforce. Sixty-seven percent of Americans believe that now is a good time to find a quality job.

The biggest challenge we have, given the rapidly evolving nature of our global economy and of technology and the jobs that are being created, is to train and equip the workforce of tomorrow for the jobs that will be available. That is why we have invested so much money in our community colleges and workforce training, in partnerships with industry—to make sure that more and more people can qualify for those good, well-paying jobs.

I am thinking about a single mom, a Hispanic woman in Amarillo, TX, who worked as a jail guard—until she went to Amarillo community college and learned how to be an aircraft mechanic. Today, she works on the production line for the V-22 Osprey tiltrotor aircraft, one of the most advanced air platforms in the world. My recollection is that she is making \$18 an hour now. That is a real solution for a real problem, and I bet every Member of this Chamber could talk about similar stories.

In Houston, as a result of the natural gas renaissance in this country—thanks to the science, thanks to the creativity and innovation of the American energy companies—we are now seeing a huge influx of petrochemical companies reestablishing themselves in places where they can get access to low-cost feedstock fuel. What that is doing is creating even more jobs.

In the Pasadena Unified School District and around the Houston area, they are working with San Jacinto community college to help people who don't yet have the skills they need get the certificates they need in order to qualify for those good, well-paying jobs. Not everybody needs to go to a 4-

year liberal arts college. If they want to, I am all for it. But many people want to get a good job, enjoying the solid middle class, and do jobs that need to be done. They need access to training in order to get the qualifications they need. That, to me, is one of the big challenges that confront us, particularly as the economy changes so quickly because of technology.

Another big reason the economy has taken off like a rocket is the tax reform package we passed last summer. That has been perhaps the biggest game changer. The problem my friend the Democratic leader has is that every single Democrat voted against it. Remember, NANCY PELOSI called the benefits of that “crumbs.” What it has done is open doors and new opportunities for American families.

According to the White House, American families will receive \$3.2 trillion in gross tax cuts, and they have seen the child tax credit double. The top corporate rate was lowered from 35 to 21 percent so that American businesses could be more productive.

When President Obama talked about the need for America to be more competitive by lowering that corporate rate, he talked about our need to compete in the global economy. When we debated the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, Democrats called it a corporate giveaway. That is absolutely indefensible.

The results of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act have been profound, indeed. More than 500 companies have used these tax savings to benefit their employees. They have announced pay raises, 401(k) match increases. There have been cuts to utility rates for seniors and people on fixed incomes because investor-owned utilities have had to lower their charges in order to comply with the law, which allows them a reasonable rate of return. They can't charge what the market will bear; they need to comply with their local laws. So what we have seen is that many investor-owned utilities have lowered utility rates for seniors and people on fixed incomes.

We have seen other businesses offer substantial bonuses and other benefits. A recent survey by the National Association of Manufacturers showed that 77 percent of manufacturers in America intend to increase hiring, and 93 percent of them have a positive outlook.

One of the things President Trump talked about during his campaign was that so much of our manufacturing had moved overseas. But what these numbers indicate is that the manufacturing sector is alive and well here in the United States when given the opportunity to compete on a level playing field.

This is the kind of optimism I am hearing when I visit places like College Station, Austin, and Amarillo, home of the Big Texan 72-ounce steak. If you can eat it in an hour, along with a baked potato, you can get the meal for free. I didn't try that, but some people do, and some people get the free meal—

but not a lot of people, would be my guess.

In Austin, I visited with one of the owners of Wally's Burgers and met with other small businesses—pest control companies and the like—and they talked about the benefits they are seeing in their small businesses from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. The stories just go on and on and on.

I have also had constituents write to my office, explaining how the boost in their monthly paychecks is making a big difference when it comes to buying groceries, paying bills, and starting long-delayed projects. Maybe no Democrat voter lives paycheck to paycheck, but I can tell you, some of my constituents do, and they appreciate the additional money in their paycheck as a result of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

I think what happened, when our Democratic colleagues unanimously voted against the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, they were making a big bet that we would fail to deliver that bill, and it would somehow be an embarrassment and setback for this side of the aisle. Well, they bet against the American people, and they bet against our commitment to make sure the benefits of this bill would be delivered to the average American family.

In one recent piece of news, Costco, which has ten locations in Texas, announced they would be increasing wages for 130,000 employees, not because the government mandated it but because they need to do that in order to be competitive, and they are passing the benefits on to their employees. But that is just the tip of the iceberg.

Amidst all of this good news, we also need to remember that there are two specific targeted measures that are often overlooked. It repealed ObamaCare's burdensome tax on the middle class, who refused to purchase Washington-mandated health insurance. This is the so-called ObamaCare mandate. It basically was a tax on poor and middle-income people who couldn't afford to buy the high-price ObamaCare policies.

We also opened up something that has been a point of contention for many, many years—the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to energy exploration.

Senator SCOTT from South Carolina talked about his Opportunity Zone provision, which provides tax benefits to businesses that start a business and grow a business in poor and blighted areas. Senator FISCHER from Nebraska talked about her tax provision, which provides encouragement to employers to provide family leave when families need that in order to deal with a family illness or a newborn child or whatever the case may be.

Those are real and tangible benefits to the people we serve. And our colleagues want to talk about corporate giveaways? That is pure demagoguery, short and simple. What else do you have when you have made a bet and you lost that bet by betting against the benefits from this bill?

It is not just the economy that deserves mention; another important accomplishment has been the confirmation of judges who will interpret the Constitution faithfully and say what the law is, not what, because of their personal policy preferences, they wish it might be.

In a former life, I served on the bench—the State bench, not the Federal bench—for 13 years at the trial court level and on the Texas Supreme Court. I believe very strongly in the importance of having judges—that third branch of government—who will understand and appreciate their role in the U.S. Government. In other words, the reason we don't elect judges is because we don't expect them to gauge public opinion. The reason we don't expect them to campaign on an agenda—we expect them to interpret the law, including the Constitution of the United States, the fundamental law, not to promote policies based on their preference or based on some ideology. To me, that is the opposite of what we want judges to do.

The Trump administration has seen confirmed 21 circuit court judges. These are the intermediate appeals court judges who essentially are the court of last resort for most cases since the U.S. Supreme Court now only hears about 80 cases a year. They provide the guidance in the most difficult cases, where the circuit courts are divided.

This now means that one in eight appeals court judges has been appointed by President Trump and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. These are people who will serve not just 4 years, not just 6 years, not just 8 years, but perhaps 20 years or 30 years or longer—a lifetime tenure. These circuit courts will hear appeals from district courts that set binding precedent for those lower courts on a wide range of issues.

It is worth pointing out that President Obama's 21st circuit court nominee was not confirmed until 33 months into his administration. So it is not just that we are confirming good judges; we are doing it at a very good clip, comparatively speaking.

The President has appointed and we have confirmed two judges to the Fifth Circuit who serve the State of Texas—Don Willett, a former justice on the Texas Supreme Court, and Jim Ho, the former Texas solicitor general. We have one in the queue who has been voted out of committee, Andy Oldham, the counsel to our Governor, who has been nominated to the Fifth Circuit. And that is not to mention some very talented district judges, the people who are at the ground level of our civil justice system, people like Karen Scholer and David Counts. We hope to have one more Federal district judge confirmed before the end of this week—Fernando Rodriguez, whom Senator CRUZ and I recommended to the President and he has nominated.

The other major accomplishment of this administration over the last 18 months is repealing burdensome over-

regulation from the previous administration. Many of these regulations were passed by the Obama administration as they were heading out the door, without a real opportunity for public input and review. We have repealed a historic number—16 of them—using the Congressional Review Act. Previously, there had been only one example where Congress had repealed a regulation using the Congressional Review Act.

Thanks to the junior Senator from Pennsylvania, we have also repealed something that was a bullying tactic by the Federal Government. This was a scheme by the previous administration to use guidance from Federal agencies where they didn't pass a rule, where they were required under the law to gain input as part of that rulemaking process. So what they would do is they would issue guidance. You can imagine how that was treated by people in the private sector. They didn't want to have to defend a lawsuit, so they grudgingly complied with the guidance even though there wasn't any process and input from the public on what that guidance should be. Thanks again to our colleague Senator TOOMEY, we have successfully repealed those sorts of quasi-regulations, as well, using the Congressional Review Act.

Our use of the Congressional Review Act has been referred to as the most ambitious regulatory rollback since Ronald Reagan.

As I talk to people, the job creators in our country, they tell me that not only has it been the tax cuts, but it has been the regulatory rollback and it has been the signal that Washington is sending that businesses small and large will have more freedom to pursue their ends, their dreams, without the wet blanket of government regulation.

President Trump has also used his executive branch pen to issue 22 deregulatory actions for every new regulatory one. These are big wins, including for our farmers and energy producers.

On top of that, when it comes to ObamaCare, one of the aspects of ObamaCare was something called the Independent Payment Advisory Board. We repealed that in our budget agreement earlier this year, which will allow seniors and their families to take greater control of their healthcare decisions without being subjected to the whims of unelected bureaucrats.

What “unelected bureaucrats” translates into is “unaccountable bureaucrats.” In other words, if you don't like what the bureaucrat is doing, you have almost no recourse, and that is by design in this Independent Payment Advisory Board. When it comes to your healthcare, you want to maintain your ability to petition your representatives if you feel the government is not treating you correctly, which this Independent Payment Advisory Board eliminated.

A fourth major accomplishment is providing relief to our community and midsized financial institutions, which

have been hit hardest by some of the one-size-fits-all rulemaking approaches under Dodd-Frank. We all remember that Dodd-Frank was a response to the financial crisis of 2008, followed by the great recession. Congress, as it often does, went too far. The pendulum swung too far and affected our community banks and credit unions. I tell my community bankers in Texas: You weren't the target, perhaps, but you were the collateral damage.

We want small businesses and working families to succeed. We want them to get access to credit, the credit they need in order to succeed. Regulating community banks out of business is not the answer.

This bill was sponsored by the senior Senator from Idaho, Mr. CRAPO, and was passed on a bipartisan basis. This bill, which just passed the House, is a big win for smaller financial institutions, and it will make it easier for them to serve their communities by approving mortgages, providing credit, and lending to small businesses. This isn't mainly a win for the small banks; this is a win for their customers, for the small businesses and individuals who need access to the credit they could not get under the status quo.

Another thing that we have done recently which I think bears note—unfortunately, so much happens in Washington, and it seems like every 15 minutes there is breaking news, and sometimes we overlook and don't celebrate these great victories, in this case on behalf of our veterans. We have been accomplishing a lot for our servicemembers and veterans. Last year, we helped restore America's defense with the greatest investment in our military in 15 years and largest troop pay increase in 8 years.

We have a bad habit here in Congress: After we have fought a war, we begin to think we can cash the peace dividend. We start to think, OK, now the world is safe, and now we can roll back our money spent on national security. Unfortunately, the world continues to be a dangerous place, and the world needs American leadership. Unfortunately, that is expensive, but there really is no option because if we don't have peace, if we don't have stability, none of the other benefits of life—liberty and the pursuit of happiness—can exist.

Getting back to our veterans, we passed the VA MISSION Act in the last couple of weeks, which will make significant reforms to the Department of Veterans Affairs, strengthening the healthcare and community care options that are available to American veterans. This bill provided \$5.2 billion for the Veterans Choice Program. For example, if you are a veteran and you call to make an appointment and they say “Well, come see us in August” and you can't wait, or if you have to drive 100 or 200 miles—and in the Rio Grande Valley in South Texas, if you really need to go to the veterans hospital, you have to drive all the way to San

Antonio to get your healthcare—what the act did and what we passed on a bipartisan basis allows veterans a choice. You can go see a local healthcare provider, and you can go to a local hospital if they can provide that service quicker and more efficiently.

We also provided for expanded caregiver assistance. This is a big deal. The times I have been to Walter Reed visiting Texans who were injured in Afghanistan or Iraq, frequently that injured servicemember had a spouse or family member who basically would have to give up their job in order to take care of their injured spouse. It is only right and it is only just that we provide expanded caregiver assistance to those individuals who do that.

Finally, we have seen a crackdown on imported illegal drugs. As of April, the Border Patrol had seized 284 pounds of fentanyl—already greatly surpassing the total amount seized in fiscal year 2017. I don't have to repeat what a devastating impact the opioid crisis—prescription drugs or the alternatives, which are heroin and fentanyl—has had on our communities.

These are just a handful of ways we are doing what the American people elected us to do. We put money back in their pockets. We rolled back regulations. We strengthened our military. We have given healthcare flexibility to our veterans. We protected our communities from harm. The best part of this story is, we are just getting started.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time is expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Wier nomination?

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 95, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 113 Ex.]

YEAS—95

Alexander	Burr	Cornyn
Baldwin	Cantwell	Cortez Masto
Barrasso	Capito	Cotton
Bennet	Cardin	Crapo
Blumenthal	Carper	Cruz
Blunt	Casey	Daines
Booker	Cassidy	Donnelly
Boozman	Collins	Durbin
Brown	Corker	Enzi

Ernst	Klobuchar	Sanders
Feinstein	Lankford	Sasse
Fischer	Leahy	Schatz
Flake	Lee	Schumer
Gardner	Manchin	Scott
Gillibrand	Markey	Shaheen
Graham	McCaskill	Shelby
Grassley	McConnell	Smith
Harris	Merkley	Stabenow
Hassan	Moran	Sullivan
Hatch	Murkowski	Tester
Heitkamp	Murphy	Thune
Heller	Murray	Tillis
Hirono	Nelson	Toomey
Hoeven	Paul	Udall
Hyde-Smith	Perdue	Van Hollen
Inhofe	Peters	Warner
Isakson	Portman	Warren
Johnson	Reed	Whitehouse
Jones	Risch	Wicker
Kaine	Roberts	Wyden
Kennedy	Rounds	Young
King	Rubio	

NOT VOTING—5

Coons	Heinrich	Menendez
Duckworth	McCain	

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.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Fernando Rodriguez, Jr., of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

Mitch McConnell, Tom Cotton, Roger F. Wicker, John Cornyn, Thom Tillis, Orrin G. Hatch, Roy Blunt, Mike Rounds, John Hoeven, Richard Burr, John Thune, Joni Ernst, Pat Roberts, John Barrasso, Johnny Isakson, Steve Daines, Chuck Grassley.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Fernando Rodriguez, Jr., of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 94, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 114 Ex.]

YEAS—94

Alexander	Gillibrand	Perdue
Baldwin	Graham	Peters
Barrasso	Grassley	Portman
Bennet	Harris	Reed
Blumenthal	Hassan	Risch
Blunt	Hatch	Roberts
Booker	Heitkamp	Rounds
Boozman	Heller	Rubio
Brown	Hoeven	Sanders
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Cantwell	Inhofe	Schatz
Capito	Isakson	Schumer
Cardin	Johnson	Scott
Carper	Jones	Shaheen
Casey	Kaine	Shelby
Cassidy	Kennedy	Smith
Collins	King	Stabenow
Corker	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Tester
Cortez Masto	Leahy	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	Manchin	Toomey
Cruz	Markey	Udall
Daines	McCaskill	Van Hollen
Donnelly	McConnell	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warren
Enzi	Moran	Whitehouse
Ernst	Murkowski	Wicker
Feinstein	Murphy	Wyden
Fischer	Murray	Young
Flake	Nelson	
Gardner	Paul	

NAYS—1

Hirono

NOT VOTING—5

Coons	Heinrich	Menendez
Duckworth	McCain	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 94, the nays are 1.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Fernando Rodriguez, Jr., of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for such time as I may consume.

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

MAKING PROGRESS TOGETHER

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I am so proud to be here. This is my first time speaking on the Senate floor, and because I represent the great State of Minnesota, I thought I would do the polite thing and start out by properly introducing myself.

I came to Minnesota right out of business school, just married, with my husband Archie, in a beat-up orange car, and with a ton of student loans. Most people who have never been to Minnesota know us for our weather, but we have a thriving business community with a number of Fortune 500 companies, and I got my start working for one of them: General Mills.

The winters were every bit as cold as we had heard, but Archie and I fell in love with Minnesota anyway and, before long, we put down roots. We have two sons, Sam and Mason, and instead of just building a career, suddenly we were building a life.

I am so glad Archie and my dad Harlan, whose 88th birthday is this Saturday, could come to Washington to cheer me on today.

So that is the story of how I became a Minnesotan. The story of how I wound up in the Senate really starts in 1990. I had left General Mills and started a small business that I ran out of our house. Sam was 3, Mason was 1. It was a busy, exciting, and happy time for us.

My parents had raised me to believe that if you are truly going to be part of a community, it is not enough to just pay your taxes and keep your lawn nice and say hi at the grocery store. You have to find a way to get involved in civic life. When I was young, they had been involved in local politics. So I looked around the community, where Archie and I had decided to raise our kids, and saw we had a State senator who was really out of touch with the values my neighbors and I shared. Not only that, but there was a young, energetic candidate running against her, and he had young kids, just like we did.

In those days, campaigns tended to put their focus on traditional neighborhoods with single-family homes. I guess the idea was that if you own your own home, that probably means you are old enough to be likely to vote and invested enough in your community to really care about what is happening, but a lot of my neighbors lived in apartment buildings, and they had a lot to say about how they thought things were going, and frankly they were kind of tired of being ignored. As I have always seen it, if you really listen to people, you will find that everybody has a story worth hearing, everybody has a problem that is worth working to solve, and when it comes to making big decisions in the community, everybody deserves a seat at the table.

So I packed up the stroller with Sam and Mason, and we went off to organize in the apartment buildings. People were surprised to see me, but I had a great time. I got to know my neighbors, asked a lot of questions, listened to their answers, and we built relationships. The guy I was organizing for became the first Democrat to win that seat in a decade.

After that, I stayed involved in campaigns and issues I cared about, especially when it came to women's issues. My dad had been on the board of Planned Parenthood in Ohio, and I got a chance to work for Planned Parenthood in Minnesota.

Then one day I got a call from the mayor of Minneapolis, R.T. Rybak. He had been in office for a few years and was working on a whole range of challenges, starting with an epidemic of violence among young people. R.T. is a really creative thinker, and he thought that if I could bring my business experience to the position of chief of staff, we could do some good work together. I was intrigued, so I made the leap.

It was one of the best professional decisions I have ever made. I loved the

challenges of that job. Later, I held the same job for the Governor of Minnesota, Mark Dayton.

Then one day, to my utter shock, Governor Dayton asked me to run with him and serve as Lieutenant Governor. I will be honest. That took a little bit of getting used to. When it comes to public service, I have always been a lot more comfortable with the service part than the public part, but that job involved a lot of the same skills I used in my business career: building relationships, looking for new solutions to old problems, creating coalitions to get things done, and it involved one of my favorite parts of politics, which is listening to people's stories.

A lot of times, when a big, powerful politician walks into a room full of people, everybody kind of clams up and waits for him to say what is on his mind. After all, that is why people came and, at the end, maybe he has time for a couple of questions before he has to run off to the next event, but there is rarely a chance for a real conversation.

This is where being kind of a low-key person works to my advantage. I would come into coffee shops or community centers or even people's homes, and I would introduce myself and ask people questions: What is going on with you? What have the last few weeks been like for you? What keeps you up at night? That is when people really start to open up.

You know, it is one thing to go around the table at a forum and have someone say "healthcare is my big issue," but when you are in someone's living room and you are drinking their coffee—and we love coffee in Minnesota—you have met their dog, you get the chance to hear stories like this:

I just went to visit my mom in a nursing home. She is 40 miles away. With the kids in soccer and karate and the school band, I am just so busy, I only get there a couple of times a month. The nurses are great, and they work so hard, but they only stay there for 6 months at a time because they get hired away by a big hospital system that can pay them more. So I worry that my mom is never going to get the same nurse for more than 6 months at a time. I wish there was some way these nurses could get paid more so they don't have to leave.

I can't tell you how much these conversations mean to me, and so, when I was Lieutenant Governor, I made Minnesotans' living rooms my office, and I spent as much time as I could just talking to people. I have always found that when you ask people what they think and then you really listen to what they say, instead of just waiting for the answer that you were expecting, that is when you start to get a sense of what you can do to improve people's lives.

Now that I have this opportunity to serve the people of Minnesota in Washington, I am so focused on the issues that they tell me about when I am sit-

ting in their living rooms, around their family pictures, and talking about what is happening to them.

The thing that keeps coming up in these conversations is a very simple but a very powerful idea; that is, freedom. In this country, you are supposed to have the freedom to build the kind of life you want—and not just the freedom but the opportunity. If you are putting in 16-/18-hour days and still struggling to make the rent and put food on the table, let alone pay for childcare or if you have a child who doesn't want to go to a 4-year college and you have no idea how he or she is going to find a decent job out of high school or if someone in your family is sick and the cost of medicine is blowing a gaping hole in your budget, well, then you are not getting that opportunity, are you? You don't have that freedom.

Minnesotans who aren't getting that opportunity, who are being denied that freedom, deserve to have a voice here in Washington, and that is the kind of Senator I want to be.

So this is the story of how I came to be here and what I want my work here to be like, but I am also well aware of the way the story sometimes gets told here in Washington, and it is not actually a story about me at all. Sometimes I am barely a character in the story.

Instead, it is a story about a man who held this seat before me, a man I consider to be a good friend and a champion for the progressive values that brought me into politics, or maybe it is a broader story about how we should hold powerful men accountable for their actions and about the hope so many of us have that this moment represents a turning of a tide. I get that. I understand that.

My presence here in the Senate will always be seen by some as a symbol of a broader conversation we are having in this country today about the experience of women, so I want to give my perspective about that and say my piece about where I hope this conversation goes.

My grandmother, Avis, was born in 1898. This is Avis here, standing in the background with a cigarette in her hand. She was 17 years old when the suffragettes crashed Woodrow Wilson's inauguration and demanded franchise, and she grew up to be the president of a small community bank in rural Indiana at a time when such a thing was unheard of. Avis didn't seize the bank in a hostile takeover or anything; her father owned the bank. He had three daughters, so the only way for him to keep that bank in the family was to pass it on to them. When he did that, instead of handing it over to their husbands, what my grandmother and their sisters did was they went ahead and ran that bank themselves.

Avis's daughter, my mother Chris, was 33 years old the year that *Griswold v. Connecticut* was decided, confirming that married women had the right to

contraception and thus to control their futures. But when mom graduated from college a few years earlier, the options for women were still pretty limited. My mom wanted to be a journalist, but her father told her that she had better come out of school prepared for a career that would allow her to take care of herself. Back then, that meant she could be a teacher, a secretary, or a nurse. Mom picked teacher.

We lost my mom not quite 2 years ago to Alzheimer's. She was such an inspiration to me, and I think she would have been an incredible journalist. But mom didn't sit around and feel sorry for herself. Just like her mother before her, she was a fighter, and she figured out how to make the best possible life for herself and for the people she loved, no matter what the constraints anyone else tried to put on her.

As for me, I was 16 the year *Roe v. Wade* was decided. I grew up in a time of incredible progress for women, and with women like my mother and my grandmother in my family tree, I believed it when my mother and father told me that I could do whatever I wanted to do when I grew up, which isn't to say that I didn't notice the way the world worked.

It is interesting. I graduated from business school in 1984. That year, the big story among MBA types was about Mary Cunningham. Mary was a brilliant woman. When she graduated from Harvard Business School, the dean had said she might someday become Harvard's first female graduate to become chairman of a noncosmetic company. That is what passed for a compliment back then. Indeed, she went on to become one of the first women who had ever held a senior leadership role in a Fortune 100 company. But that is not why she was famous. Mary was famous because of gossip that she had slept her way to the top of the corporate ladder. That was the context for young women like me when we started in business.

I remember that my graduating class in business school was about one-third women, and we all dressed like men—suits and white shirts and red power ties. We were dressing in a world where women could dream of professional success, but the best way to do that was to pass like a man.

I have been fortunate in my career and in my life. I have always been surrounded by strong women and thoughtful men. I don't have a horror story to share like the ones we have heard from so many women in the "me too." movement or the millions of similar stories that have gone unheard simply because the men in those stories weren't famous. But when you really listen to women, you begin to understand the million little ways in which all women are made less and denied the opportunity to contribute to their communities and their country.

The day that Governor Dayton announced he was appointing me to fill this Senate seat, I stood next to him feeling proud and excited and ready to

serve the people of Minnesota. Why not? Here I was, with a graduate degree, having worked at General Mills and started my own company, having managed 34,000 people and a multibillion-dollar budget as chief of staff for the Governor and served as Lieutenant Governor. Then a reporter raised his hands and he asked: "So, do you think you'll be able to do this?" Like a lot of women, I brushed it off. You learn to deal with stuff like this.

The indignities are one thing, but there are also injustices that are holding women back, and a lot of them start with the policies that get made right here in Washington. There is the stuff that gets a lot of attention, like trying to defund Planned Parenthood, which millions of women rely on for healthcare, rolling back women's access to basic reproductive services, and standing in the way of equal pay for equal work. Then there is the stuff that you only really understand when you listen to the realities in women's lives. The high cost of childcare isn't a woman's issue per se, but who winds up having to drop out of the workforce when a family can't afford childcare? Women do. The high cost of prescription drugs isn't a woman's issue per se, but who winds up shouldering the responsibility of caring for aging parents? Women do. Just last month, the conservative majority on the Supreme Court decided that employers should be able to force workers into signing mandatory arbitration agreements that prohibit them from going to court when they are mistreated. That isn't a woman's issue per se, either, but millions of women who are sexually harassed or abused in the workplace lost their ability to seek justice in the process.

All of these things add up to a world in which women are unfairly denied that freedom I was talking about earlier—the freedom to build the kind of lives they want. We may have moved past the days when that freedom depended on your father or your husband, but much of it still depends on what we do here in Washington, and we are letting too many women down.

You don't have to be a woman to care about these problems or to be part of the solution. In fact, Senator Franken led the fight to ban those mandatory arbitration clauses when he was serving in this seat. But the fact is, a lot of these problems have endured because women haven't had a seat at the table here in Washington.

I am the 51st woman to take the oath of office as United States Senator, but we have had 50 different Senators named Charles—and I mean no disrespect to my minority leader. Put another way, nearly half of all the women who have ever served in the United States Senate are serving right now. You can slice and dice these numbers a million different ways. They are all sobering. But it is changing. Since I took the office, my friend from Mississippi became the Senate's 52nd-ever woman

and the 27th Smith. So instead of my place in the Senate reminding people of all the ways in which women have been held back from contributing in our country, I want it to be a reminder of the contributions women can make when we have the freedom to do so.

One of the best things about my time here so far has been getting to know the other women in the Senate. Some of us are very progressive Democrats, and some of us are very conservative Republicans, but we get together once a month, and we listen, and we talk to each other, and we find a lot of common ground.

My friend LISA MURKOWSKI and I have something in common. It turns out we both worked on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline on the North Slope of Alaska. I know I don't look like somebody who worked on a pipeline, but after high school, I joined the union and spent a summer working in the kitchen—a kitchen in a construction camp on Prudhoe Bay. It was only an entry-level job—I wasn't allowed to touch anything hot or sharp—but it was an interesting summer, and all these years later, it gave LISA and me something to talk about. Once we started talking about that, we found ourselves talking about something else we have in common: We both are really concerned about the fact that kids in rural communities don't have access to the mental health services they need. We have both met with too many parents and too many teachers who worry that kids are slipping through the cracks. So we decided to team up, and now we have a bipartisan bill to bring mental health professionals in the National Health Service Corps into more schools so more kids can have access to services.

The truth is, when women are empowered to contribute more fully, we all benefit. We have seen it in our economy for the last generation. We are seeing it in our politics, as women drive the resistance to policies that hurt working people and leave our children vulnerable to gun violence. We are seeing it more and more here in the Senate. I am so proud to be a part of that.

I know that I am going to always be known in part for the circumstances that brought me here, but I will tell you what I told that reporter when he asked whether or not I thought I could handle this job: Do not underestimate me.

I believe that, as a woman and as a progressive and as a Minnesotan, I have a lot to contribute to this body, and I am so ready to do that work. I intend to stand up to this administration when it attacks the values I believe in, but I am also ready to listen, to learn, and so ready to work with anyone who wants to expand freedom and opportunity for women and men across this country.

I believe we can find ways to work together and make some progress for the people we represent. And I will tell

you something else: I believe we can actually enjoy doing it. I know that is not a trendy thing to say. I know we are supposed to come here and immediately start complaining about how broken everything is, how horrible the other side is, and how much we hate these jobs that we spend all this time and money campaigning for. I have to say, I don't get it. I think it is so amazing that we get to go out and talk to people about their lives and then bring their ideas and their concerns to the table here in Washington and try to figure out how to make progress for them.

I grew up out West, in New Mexico. In fact, Senator UDALL and Senator HEINRICH tell me I am the only Senator currently serving who was born in New Mexico. Our town was informally divided into two parts, and mine was one of the only White families in our neighborhood, which was mostly populated by Hispanic families who had been there for generations. Most of the kids I grew up around spoke Spanish at home. So from a very early age, I grew up with this sense that everyone around me had something different to offer.

My parents sent me to the public school in our neighborhood, and my school, frankly, lacked some of the resources that the schools where more of the White kids went had. So my parents got involved. My dad joined the school board, my mom volunteered, and they both devoted part of their lives to making things better. Do you know what? They loved it. They loved doing that work.

I was raised to believe that the world is full of people who share the same hopes and dreams but have very different experiences and perspectives and that part of being a good citizen is to go out and listen to those different experiences and perspectives and do your part to help and that it can even be fun.

Maybe that is why Minnesota was the right place for me to go into public service. Minnesotans really love doing the hard work of democracy. We vote in higher numbers than anyone else. We love talking about the issues of the day in the checkout line of the supermarket, along with the weather, which we really love talking about. We almost always elect people who enjoy working to protect people's lives, to improve people's lives, and there is no better example of that than my friend and senior Senator, AMY KLOBUCHAR. She is effective because she doesn't buy into the cynicism. She really believes that by listening to people and working hard to make a difference for them, progress is possible, and she proves it every single day. The same was true of my predecessor, Senator Franken, who brought not just wit but heart and passion to his work. It has been true for a long line of Minnesotans, from Hubert Humphrey and Walter Mondale to Paul Wellstone and Dave Durenberger.

The other thing you learn when you spend a lot of time listening to Min-

nesotans is just how hard they are willing to work to create opportunity for their families. They deserve a Senator who will work just as hard on their behalf, and I am not just ready to do that, I am excited to do that.

I know there will be some rough days here in the Senate, but what an honor to have the chance to do this work alongside all of you. With my mother and my grandmother beside me, I am so thrilled to be here, and I am full of hope about the progress we can all make together.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, all postcloture time on the Rodriguez nomination be considered expired at 2:15 p.m. and the Senate immediately vote on the nomination; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid on the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:43 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. PORTMAN).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time is expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Rodriguez nomination?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 96, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 115 Ex.]

YEAS—96

Alexander	Gillibrand	Nelson
Baldwin	Graham	Paul
Barrasso	Grassley	Perdue
Bennet	Harris	Peters
Blumenthal	Hassan	Portman
Blunt	Hatch	Reed
Booker	Heitkamp	Risch
Boozman	Heller	Roberts
Brown	Hirono	Rounds
Burr	Hoeven	Rubio
Cantwell	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Capito	Inhofe	Sasse
Cardin	Isakson	Schatz
Carper	Johnson	Schumer
Casey	Jones	Scott
Cassidy	Kaine	Shaheen
Collins	Kennedy	Shelby
Corker	King	Smith
Cornyn	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Leahy	Tester
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Cruz	Manchin	Tillis
Daines	Markey	Toomey
Donnelly	McCaskill	Udall
Durbin	McConnell	Van Hollen
Enzi	Menendez	Warner
Ernst	Merkley	Warren
Feinstein	Moran	Whitehouse
Fischer	Murkowski	Wicker
Flake	Murphy	Wyden
Gardner	Murray	Young

NOT VOTING—4

Coons	Heinrich
Duckworth	McCain

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.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Annemarie Carney Axon, of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama.

Mitch McConnell, Thom Tillis, John Cornyn, John Kennedy, Richard Burr, Mike Lee, David Perdue, Steve Daines, James Lankford, Pat Roberts, Johnny Isakson, Jeff Flake, Lindsey Graham, Patrick J. Toomey, Marco Rubio, Tom Cotton, James E. Risch.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Annemarie Carney Axon, of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator

from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 84, nays 11, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 116 Ex.]

YEAS—84

Alexander	Feinstein	Murray
Baldwin	Fischer	Nelson
Barrasso	Flake	Paul
Bennet	Gardner	Perdue
Blumenthal	Graham	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Reed
Booker	Hassan	Risch
Boozman	Hatch	Roberts
Brown	Heitkamp	Rounds
Burr	Heller	Rubio
Cantwell	Hoeven	Sasse
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Cardin	Inhofe	Schumer
Carper	Johnson	Scott
Casey	Jones	Shaheen
Cassidy	Kaine	Shelby
Collins	Kennedy	Smith
Corker	King	Sullivan
Cornyn	Klobuchar	Tester
Cortez Masto	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Leahy	Tillis
Crapo	Lee	Toomey
Cruz	Manchin	Udall
Daines	McCaskey	Van Hollen
Donnelly	McConnell	Warner
Durbin	Moran	Whitehouse
Enzi	Murkowski	Wicker
Ernst	Murphy	Young

NAYS—11

Gillibrand	Menendez	Stabenow
Harris	Merkley	Warren
Hirono	Peters	Wyden
Markey	Sanders	

NOT VOTING—5

Coons	Heinrich	McCain
Duckworth	Isakson	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 84, the nays are 11.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Annemarie Carney Axon, of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, what is the parliamentary situation?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The pending question is the Axon nomination postcloture.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I see nobody else seeking the floor. I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for 10 minutes as in morning business.

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

FORCED FAMILY SEPARATION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, for those of us who read history, we know that throughout history, including at times in our own country many years ago,

the forcible separation of families was used as an instrument of terror.

I struggle to imagine a more damaging and inhumane governmental policy than to forcibly and needlessly tear children away from their parents. For decades, the United States has rightly led the world in condemning such practices as flagrant abuses of government power and human rights.

Yet, today, in an extraordinary breach of our most basic values, the Trump administration is now regularly employing these very tactics. It is true that some children were separated from their parents during the previous administration. I vocally and forcefully opposed it then, because I believed and I am still convinced that there are alternatives that are far more humane and effective than the tearing apart of families.

But the family separation we are seeing today is so vastly different both in purpose and in scope than what occurred during the Obama administration. There is no comparison. Separation is no longer limited to narrow circumstances where it is arguably in the best interest of the child. Separating children, even infants, from their parents is now being carried out as a blanket policy. It is frightening. This disturbing policy is happening by design.

The Trump administration's decision to criminally prosecute every adult who arrives at our border without documentation establishes a de facto family separation policy that is going to rip thousands of innocent children away from their loved ones. The administration's claim that this policy is necessary to deter illegal border crossings rings hollow. The administration has also separated families who follow the rules and lawfully present themselves at ports of entry with claims of asylum. They are asking for asylum.

There is simply no way we can sanitize the cruelty of this policy. The anguish we are inflicting is evident in the story of each parent who is losing a child. Let me tell my colleagues a couple of those stories.

Here are the words of Maria, who was separated from her children, ages 7 and 2, just last month when she sought asylum at the San Ysidro Port of Entry.

She said:

[A]t about 8 a.m. they called just my two children and I went out and they said, "Miss, only they are going." . . . [T]he officer said, "They are here for them. Can the little one walk?"

"Yes," I told the officer.

"Let him down," they told me.

The older one took his hand and they started to walk. Then they turned around to look and when they saw that I was not going after them, they cried.

I will tell another story, the ordeal of another mother with two sons, age 4 and 10. She is seeking asylum from El Salvador.

I was only given five minutes to say goodbye before [my sons] were torn from me. My babies started crying when they found out we were going to be separated. It breaks my heart to remember my youngest wail, "Why

do I have to leave?" . . . My youngest cried and screamed in protest because he did not want to leave my side. My oldest son was also confused and did not understand what was happening. In tears myself, I asked my boys to be brave, and I promised we would be together again soon. I begged the woman who took my children to keep them together so they could at least have each other.

This is a description from a father seeking asylum at the San Ysidro Port of Entry:

I was told I was going to be separated from my son. I suffer from high blood pressure and felt as though I was having a heart attack. . . . I feel like I was in shock and do not remember what happened next or even how I got to the detention center after that. All I can remember is how much my son and I were both crying as they took him away.

The anguish inflicted on these parents and children at the moment they are separating is excruciating. For those of us who are parents, it is inconceivable, but it is just the beginning. Parents are given limited information—sometimes none at all—about where their children are being held, in whose care, or for how long. Some have begged the courts for information, frustrating judges who know little more than the parents. Some are deported while their children remain in unknown locations in the United States. Pediatricians describe the trauma that can be inflicted on these children as toxic stress. It results in lasting damage to a child's health.

Who here would tolerate such a thing if it were happening to American children? Who would defend such an abhorrent practice that was happening in another country—say, Russia or any other country? None of us would. We would condemn it.

But all of this lays bare the ugly truth about the true intent of this policy: to strike fear into the hearts of families who are seeking refuge from gang violence, chaos, murder, and rape in their home countries. The message could not be clearer: If you try to seek refuge in the United States, which is your right under international law, if you seek your right, if you seek refuge, if you seek the right you have under international law, we in America will punish you and punish your family because you are not welcome here.

This policy unquestionably flouts our domestic and international legal obligations. Worse, it flies in the face of who we are. In the past, we have shown the world that protecting our homeland is not incompatible with providing refuge to the vulnerable. We have proven that being a nation of laws is not antithetical to being a country of compassion. We have demonstrated that our unmatched power is derived in part from how we treat the most powerless among us. But President Trump's policy abandons our principles. Actually, it abandons our identity as a moral beacon for the world.

Republicans and Democrats must speak with one voice to condemn this cruelty. Family separation is no more a Republican policy than a Democratic

policy. It is neither. It is an un-American policy.

The United States, this great country that beckoned my maternal grandparents to come to the United States and Vermont, or my great-grandparents, paternal grandparents to come to the United States and Vermont—this great country must not be seen as terrorizing children to score political points. That is beneath the greatness of the United States. It is wrong. It is abhorrent. We must not be seen as pursuing policies with the intent of inflicting pain and anguish on vulnerable people, on children.

I hope Senators of both parties with join me in condemning this outrageous practice of forced family separation. We are a nation that is better than this. We have always thought of ourselves as better than this. Well, it is time we acted like we are better than this.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE REPUBLICAN-LED CONGRESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, the May jobs report came out last Friday, and here are some of the headlines.

This is from Bloomberg: "U.S. Payrolls Rise 223,000; Jobless Rate Matches 48-Year Low."

This is from CNN: "Unemployment rate matches lowest point in half a century."

From the New York Times: "We Ran Out of Words to Describe How Good the Job Numbers Are."

In other words, the May jobs report was more good news for American workers. The economy created 223,000 jobs in May. The unemployment rate dropped to 3.8 percent—the lowest rate since April of 2000. That is right. The last time unemployment was this low, the iPod hadn't even been invented.

When the Republican-led Senate passed tax reform in December, there were estimates that this historic legislation would create nearly 1 million jobs for the American people. Well, the economy has already created more than 1 million jobs since tax reform was passed and 3.6 million jobs since President Trump was elected. The Republican pro-growth, pro-jobs agenda is working.

Government cannot create prosperity. It can't create the jobs and opportunities that Americans need for a secure economic future. Only businesses can do that. But government can create the conditions for economic prosperity. It can make sure businesses are free to create jobs and opportunities by making sure they are not weighed down with burdensome taxes and regulations.

As everyone knows, the economy stagnated during the last administration. Recovery from the recession was historically weak. Wages were stagnant, and opportunities were often few and far between. A big reason for that was the fact that businesses large and

small were weighed down by burdensome regulations and an outdated Tax Code. So when President Trump took office, Republicans and President Trump made reversing our economic decline a priority. We rolled back burdensome regulations, and in December, we passed a historic reform of our Tax Code.

Before the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the Tax Code was not helping businesses grow and create jobs. In fact, it was doing just the opposite, and that had real consequences for American workers. A small business owner struggling to afford the hefty annual tax bill for her business was highly unlikely to be able to hire a new worker or to raise wages. A larger business struggling to stay competitive in the global marketplace, while paying a substantially higher tax rate than its foreign competitors, too often had limited funds to expand or increase investment here in the United States.

So when it came time for tax reform, we set out to improve the playing field for American workers by improving the playing field for businesses as well. To accomplish that, we lowered tax rates across the board for owners of small- and medium-sized businesses, farms, and ranches. We lowered our Nation's massive corporate tax rate, which up until January 1 was the highest corporate tax rate in the developed world. We expanded business owners' ability to recover investments they make in their businesses, which frees up cash that they can reinvest in their operations and their workers. We brought the U.S. international tax system into the 21st century so that American businesses are not operating at a disadvantage next to their foreign competitors.

Now we are seeing results. Company after company has announced higher wages, better retirement benefits, bonuses, increased investment, new jobs, and more.

A recent survey from the National Association of Manufacturers reported that 77 percent of manufacturers plan to increase hiring as a result of tax reform, 72 percent plan to increase wages or benefits, and 86 percent report that they plan to increase investments, which means new jobs and opportunities for workers. Meanwhile, a recent survey from the National Federation of Independent Business reports that 75 percent of small business owners think the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will have a positive effect on their businesses.

The Republican economic agenda is working, and Republicans are going to keep working to ensure that American businesses can thrive and that American workers have access to the jobs and opportunities they need for long-term economic security. While we are doing that, we are also going to continue to focus on the rest of the work the American people elected us to do. As I have said before, Congress can walk and chew gum at the same time.

While we have been laser-focused on removing obstacles to economic growth

and job creation, we have also accomplished a lot of other things so far this Congress.

By the end of the Obama administration, our Nation's military was facing a serious readiness shortfall. So this year we made the most significant investment in our military in 15 years, and we are going to continue to make sure that the men and women of our military have the resources they need to meet and defeat the threats of the 21st century. We recently passed legislation that makes much needed reforms to ensure our veterans have access to the healthcare they need, when and where they need it.

We also took action to preserve healthcare for children in need by enacting the longest extension of the Children's Health Insurance Program in history, and we repealed ObamaCare's burdensome individual mandate which forced many, many Americans to buy health insurance they didn't want or couldn't afford.

We passed legislation to fight sex trafficking, to combat opioid abuse, to help community banks, to increase school safety, to keep energy affordable, and more. Of course, we confirmed a number of highly qualified judges to fill vacancies in our judicial system.

Republicans are working to honor the trust the American people have placed in us. We are fighting to make life better for hard-working Americans. We have accomplished a lot so far this Congress, but we know there is a lot more work to be done. We are up to the challenge.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FLAKE). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. JOHNSON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

REFUGEE CRISIS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, history is a great teacher, if you learn your history. The history of the United States, when it comes to refugees, is a checkered history.

Back during World War II, there were people who came to the borders of the United States and begged for our mercy, begged for our help. Nine hundred of them were on a ship called the *SS St. Louis*. They were Jews who came from Europe seeking refuge in the United States from the Nazis. Sadly, the United States turned them away. Several hundred of them were forced back to Europe and died in the Holocaust. On the floor of this U.S. Senate, a Democratic Senator from New York,

Robert Wagner, offered a measure to allow 10,000 Jewish children to come to the United States during World War II and escape the possibility of imprisonment and death during World War II in the Holocaust. That measure was defeated on the floor of the U.S. Senate. Those children were denied refuge in the United States.

Toward the end of the war, things started changing. Our policies became more open. We started accepting more people, but the record had been written. During the darkest days of World War II, the United States virtually closed its borders to those who were trying to escape Nazi terror.

After World War II, we decided we were wrong, that we had made a mistake, and that the United States would demonstrate to the world that we did care about those who came to the United States as refugees and those who came from other countries seeking asylum. We wrote an amazing history after World War II. When you think of the many different nations that turned to us when they faced the worst circumstances imaginable, you think about what happened in the United States.

The Cuban population escaping communism in Cuba, where did they come? They came here, and you can still find them. You can find them all over the United States but especially in Florida, near Miami, in New Jersey—but everywhere. The Cuban Americans have made an amazing contribution to this country. They came as refugees, but they became real Americans. In fact, they love this country so much so that I believe three of our Members of the U.S. Senate are Cuban Americans today.

That is quite a story, but it is not the only story about refugees coming to this country. You could add to that litany of people who came the Vietnamese after the end of the war in Vietnam, the Soviet Jews who escaped persecution in Russia to come to the United States, and the list is long. It includes refugees from all over the world who came to this country.

Now, we don't just open our doors and say: Walk in and make yourself at home. We ask questions. We do background checks. We do everything we can to be sure the person coming is the person they say they are and that they will be safe for the United States.

Over the years, the number of refugees we accepted on an annual basis went up to 80,000 and 100,000, and the United States developed an international reputation—a reputation for caring for people who were in the worst circumstances who came here looking for refuge. I run into refugees, their families, their children, and their grandchildren every single day. They have made a great contribution to our country, and we have made a great model for the world when it comes to accepting people who are in the worst, most terrifying circumstances.

That is about to change. We are in the process now of facing the worst ref-

ugee crisis in the history of the world in so many different places, and the United States, instead of maintaining this image and this model of accepting refugees from other countries, under President Donald Trump, has decided to do just the opposite. It would cut in half the number of refugees we would clear, review, interrogate, and accept in the United States each year to 45,000, which is the official number, but in actuality only about 14,000 have been accepted so far in the few months of this year. It is an indication we will not even reach 45,000.

There is something going on as well when it comes to those who seek asylum or refuge in this country that is equally horrifying and objectionable. The Trump administration has decided to discourage those who would come to our borders looking for safety by telling mothers who bring their infants and children that those children will be taken away from them by the Government of the United States when they arrive at our border. It is hard to imagine, but that is the stated policy now of the Trump administration. It is a cruel policy. It is not a policy consistent with American values.

Since our Nation's tragic failure during World War II to help Jewish refugees fleeing Adolph Hitler, generations of Americans have tried to set an example for the world by providing a safe haven to the world's most vulnerable people. Now we face the worst refugee crisis in the history of the world, with more than 65 million people around the world displaced from their homes, but the Trump administration is admitting the fewest refugees since World War II and going to extreme lengths to prevent victims of war and terrorism from seeking asylum in the United States.

So far this year, about 15,000 unaccompanied children have been apprehended at our southwest border. This is not necessarily a crisis in a nation of 325 million people, especially at a time when we are asking friendly nations—our allies in the Middle East—to do much more in accepting refugees.

The real crisis that gives cause to people showing up at our southern border asking for asylum can be traced to three countries—Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala—the so-called Northern Triangle. These countries in Central America have among the highest homicide rates in the world. Young girls face a constant threat of sexual violence with little or no protection. That is why families are doing desperate things, taking extraordinary risks to come to our border and ask for protection. Is there any parent who would not do the same to save their child?

How has the Trump administration responded to this refugee crisis on our border? They are trying to discourage families from fleeing to our borders by separating parents from their children. In March, we learned in my office in Chicago about a 7-year-old girl and her mother who came from the Democratic

Republic of the Congo. I have been there. It is a land of terrible massacres, barbarism. It is a land of violence. The Democratic Republic of the Congo had these two, a mother and daughter, come to our shores. They were separated for 4 months—a 7-year-old girl from her mother.

I asked the Department of Homeland Security inspector general to investigate this. Why would we separate a 7-year-old girl from her mom who is coming from the Congo seeking protection? Well, at the time, the Trump administration said: We don't separate families. That was the official statement at the time.

Last month, Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced that the separation of children from their parents was a new “zero tolerance” approach, and now family separation has become the official policy of the Government of the United States of America. In just the first 2 weeks of this policy under Attorney General Sessions, 658 children have been impacted.

White House Chief of Staff John Kelly says separating families is “a tough deterrent” to parents who are fleeing persecution, and he dismissed any concerns because “the children will be taken care of—put into foster care or whatever.”

Well, our Nation's leading medical experts disagree. The American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Medical Association have condemned this official policy of the Trump administration separating families in immigration detention. Here is what the President of the American Academy of Pediatrics said:

Separating children from their parents contradicts everything we stand for as pediatricians—protecting and promoting children's health. In fact, highly stressful experiences, like family separation, can cause irreparable harm, disrupting a child's brain architecture and affecting his or her short- and long-term health. This type of prolonged exposure to serious stress—known as toxic stress—can carry lifelong consequences for these children.

The Trump administration has been taking some heat, deservedly, for separating families. In typical fashion—no surprise—they have decided the real cause of the problem would be the Democrats. Just this morning, President Trump tweeted: “Separating families at the Border is the fault of bad legislation passed by the Democrats,” but the law he is talking about wasn't passed by the Democrats. It is the bipartisan Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, which was passed by unanimous consent in the Senate and was signed into law by Republican President George W. Bush. President Trump has his facts wrong again.

This law has nothing to do with the separation of families. Instead, it ensures the United States meets its international obligations to protect unaccompanied children seeking safe haven in our country. It was a response to concerns by Republicans and Democrats that children apprehended by the

Border Patrol were being returned to countries where they might be further persecuted or killed.

Under this law, unaccompanied children from the Northern Triangle countries I mentioned earlier are transferred to the Department of Health and Human Services and placed in deportation proceedings, giving them a chance to make their case to a judge as to why they are seeking protection in America.

Consider “Samuel” and “Amelie,” who are siblings, ages 3 and 6, from Honduras. They are 3 and 6. When they arrived in the United States, they were traumatized and refused to speak. After months of counseling, Amelie revealed that both children had been raped by drug cartel members. Without the protection of this law which the President condemned this morning, these children would have been returned to Honduras and almost certain exploitation or death.

Two weeks ago, there was a hearing on unaccompanied children in the Senate Immigration Subcommittee which I serve on as a ranking member. We examined the administration's claim that the law the President objects to is being exploited by gangs. Here is what we learned:

Unaccompanied children undergo multiple screenings and background checks when they present themselves at the border, and the law gives the government the authority to place any unaccompanied child in a secure facility if there is any notion of a threat. Since the year 2012, 6 years ago, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection has processed more than 250,000 unaccompanied children. Of those, how many were confirmed or suspected of affiliation with the MS-13 gang that the President talks about nonstop? Sixty. It was 60 out of 250,000—60 over 6 years, which is 10 a year, fewer than 1 a month. The President says we have to separate these kids because of drug gang worries. I don't want a single member of any gang anywhere admitted into this country, period. For goodness' sake, 250,000 children and 60 over a 6-year period were confirmed or suspected of affiliation with MS-13? Instead of stoking fears, we should focus on preventing unaccompanied children from being recruited by gangs.

Sadly, the Trump administration's budget is slashing funding for the Office of Refugee Resettlement, the government agency that is responsible for these important gang prevention efforts.

At our hearing, we also discussed the conditions in the Northern Triangle countries in Central America that are driving families to flee to our border. If people were migrating because of the so-called legal loopholes, which we hear so often about from this administration, they wouldn't be just coming from three countries; they would be coming from all over the region, but we learned more than 90 percent of the unaccompanied kids referred to the De-

partment of Health and Human Services are from three nations—the three of the Northern Triangle.

Instead of addressing the root causes that are driving migration from these countries, the Trump administration is making the situation on the ground worse. The administration's budget request for the region would slash aid by more than one-third, and the administration is terminating the temporary protected status for two of these countries—El Salvador and Honduras, forcing many people to return to them even though these countries are clearly unstable.

Last year, the administration also ended the Central American Minors Program, which permitted children from the Northern Triangle to apply for refugee resettlement from their home country. We said to mothers with their babies and their infants: Don't make this dangerous journey. If you are in danger in your home country and want to seek asylum or refuge in the United States, make the application from where you are before you have to make that journey. Unfortunately, that came to an end with the administration's request to stop the program.

There are many issues to come before the American people but few that have stoked emotions more than this issue. The notion that the United States of America—over 300 million good and caring people—would make it an official policy to separate these infants and toddlers and children from their mothers and fathers is not American. It is extreme, it is mean, and it is cruel. Sadly, it is the official policy—the so-called zero-tolerance policy that has been announced by Attorney General Sessions.

We learned a bitter lesson back in World War II. We ignored the realities of human suffering. People across the world asked: What is going on in America? What are their values? After that war, we tried to make it clear what we do stand for, the things that are clearly important, and now this administration has decided we can no longer afford to do that. We have to separate children from their mothers, separate them by thousands of miles, put them into foster care, remove them from their mothers, even if that parent qualifies for protection here in the United States under our laws of asylum.

This is a sad and cruel policy. I hope Americans across the board will stand up and speak up. We are a better Nation than this.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

BIG BANKS AND THE SECOND AMENDMENT

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I rise today because, in my judgement, we are in the midst of a deeply troubling trend regarding banking and the Second Amendment. I know that seems a bit strange. What does banking have to do with the Second Amendment? I have wondered that myself. Allow me to explain.

We have 120 million gun owners in America. Like those Americans, I am alarmed by the activist anti-gun policies unveiled by the “we are smarter than you” financial elites who run two Wall Street banks: Citigroup and Bank of America. They have a political agenda, and those banks' political agenda stands to hurt many small businesses in my State of Louisiana that are going to lose their banking services simply because these small businesses choose to exercise their constitutionally protected Second Amendment rights.

On March 22 of this year, Citigroup issued a press release. That press release detailed how Citigroup will penalize banking clients who follow Federal, State, and local gun laws. Citigroup's new policy will tell businesses what kinds of firearms they can stock, what kinds of accessories those small businesses can stock in their stores, and who they can sell them to. I thought this was America.

This new policy has already taken effect all across Citigroup, and it has impacted hundreds of small businesses, institutional clients, and even their credit card partners.

Not to be outdone, 2 weeks later, Bank of America joined in. On April 10, Bank of America announced that it will no longer loan money to businesses that, in its opinion, are “deplorable” because those businesses manufacture legal semiautomatic rifles. Targeting firearms owners and business owners is not only an affront to responsible, law-abiding, constitutional gun owners across this country; it is a threat to the sanctity of our very Constitution and the Second Amendment.

I realize that the management of these two banks have a constitution whose bill of rights jumps from one to three, but I can assure them that in the Constitution read by the rest of America, there is a Second Amendment.

I have written to both the chief executive officers of Citigroup and Bank of America about my concerns, and they have yet to respond. I understand that Mr. Brian Moynihan, the CEO of Bank of America, is actually here in Washington lobbying folks on Capitol Hill this week. I suppose he was too busy to come by and address my concerns. Once again, I invite him to come by my office and speak about this in person.

I can't overstate the gravity of this issue. It is important for consumers and businesses all across America. Both Citigroup and Bank of America are considered by the U.S. Government to be “systemically important banks.”

That means they are too big to fail. That is why the American taxpayers had to bail them out in 2009.

The American taxpayers, many of whom Citigroup and Bank of America now condescend to across our great land, gave Citigroup \$476 billion of their hard-earned money—not \$476 million to bail out Citigroup, \$476 billion. And the American taxpayers, many of whom choose to exercise their rights under the Second Amendment and whom these banks are trying to now punish, gave Bank of America \$336 billion in 2008 and 2009 to keep them from going broke.

These banks are supposed to act as a source of credit for households and businesses and local and State governments and as a source of liquidity for the entire banking system, but that also means their corporate policies will have ripple effects through every corner of our economy, from consumers and businesses of all sizes to banks and nonbank holding companies.

If the banking system worked like a grocery store, I would still disagree with these new anti-gun rules by Citigroup and Bank of America, but I would respect their rights to enact whatever corporate policies align with their beliefs. But banks are not grocery stores. A grocery store doesn't need a government charter to operate. A grocery store doesn't have a government corporation backed by the taxpayers of this country to insure their deposits. A grocery store doesn't have a government bank that pays them interest. Banks do.

One grocery store doesn't get so big that it lends and borrows and buys and sells from nearly every other grocery store in the country. Citigroup does, and so does Bank of America.

A grocery store doesn't need an \$812.3 billion bailout from the American taxpayers, many of whom choose to exercise their rights under the U.S. Constitution, including, but not limited to, the Second Amendment.

Citigroup and Bank of America have decided to make banking a red-versus-blue issue by trampling on the Second Amendment rights of small business owners and therefore all Americans.

If additional big consumer banks come out with similar anti-Second Amendment policies, it will get harder and harder for businesses in my State of Louisiana and small businesses in other States and elsewhere to find banking services. We will have red banks, and we will have blue banks. I don't think that is what we want in America.

I want to make sure that the Federal Government isn't rewarding this behavior with even more taxpayer dollars. I think \$1 trillion to bail out these two banks by the American taxpayers is quite enough.

I have already petitioned the General Services Administration to cancel the Federal Government's \$700 billion contract with Citigroup, and I have urged officials in the State of Louisiana to

reevaluate all State contracts with any Wall Street bank that chooses to implement an extra-legal policy that infringes on the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Citigroup and Bank of America owe their continued existence to the generosity of the American taxpayer. If it weren't for the American taxpayer, there would be no Citigroup; there would be no Bank of America. I find it very disturbing that these Wall Street banks may be profiting from taxpayer-funded contracts at the same time they are pushing a political agenda—and that is what it is, a political agenda—and severing ties with law-abiding businesses in the process. Given the size of these banks, it is likely that the same is true in States across America.

I find it offensive—I find it offensive—that Wall Street banks are taking taxpayer dollars with one hand and condescending to them with their “we know better than you do” attitude by using the other hand to come after the guns those taxpayers lawfully own under the Second Amendment. Rather than impose its political agenda on law-abiding citizens, these Wall Street banks ought to remember how taxpayers spent billions of dollars—almost \$1 trillion—to bail them out after the 2008 financial crisis. They owe a tremendous debt to the American people, and it seems they have a very short memory.

We don't need red banks in America. We don't need blue banks in America. We need safe banks in America.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS WILLIAMS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to someone who has been fighting for working men and women his entire career.

Just for a moment, let's think back to 1977. The top movie that year was “Star Wars”—the original one—and the average movie ticket cost \$2.23. The Apple II computer went on sale. It cost \$1,298, not including the television you needed to use for a monitor. The space shuttle *Enterprise* took its first test flight, perched on top of a Boeing 747. And a young Marine Corps veteran and salvage welder at J.I. Case first joined UAW Local 806 in Rock Island, IL. He began fighting at that point for workers' rights.

A few things have changed since then. “Star Wars” and Apple have evolved, and the space shuttle has retired. Yet one thing hasn't changed: Dennis Williams is just as dedicated to the working men and women of the UAW today as he was four decades ago. Over the years, he has served them in a number of ways, including negotiating

the first contract at Mitsubishi Motors North America in Bloomington, IL; organizing Indiana State employees; helping Local 844 in Vermont, IL, obtain their first contract; and serving locals throughout the nine States of Region 4.

In 2010, he was elected UAW's secretary-treasurer. In 2014, he was elected United Auto Workers' president, a position he has held with distinction since then. It hasn't been an easy time to lead the UAW. The great recession hit the American automobile industry very hard. Some folks thought we should just let the auto industry go bankrupt. Instead, the United Auto Workers made sacrifices, stood strong, stood together, and weathered the storm. Under Dennis Williams' leadership, the UAW ended 2017 with a fiscal surplus for the third straight year and with more than 430,000 members—up 60,000 members since 2011. It is no surprise. Anyone who has worked with Dennis knows just how dedicated he is to his members and to the communities where they live and where they work.

Just ask the people of Flint. During the water crisis—which, by the way, continues on—UAW members from all over the country were some of the first ones there to help. They collected bottled water and distributed it in their own vehicles, going door to door to help, even traveling to Washington, DC, to demand action from Congress. We are so pleased that they helped us get action to help the families in Flint.

That tells us a little something about the character of the members of the UAW. Yet, it also tells us a little bit about their leader—a man who long ago signed up to serve his country and has simply never stopped. I think that Dennis would say it is about solidarity. He wrote in an editorial in the Detroit News last month:

We believe that no matter where you come from, who you are, what language you speak, or what religion you practice—being in a union is about working men and women standing up for each other. That's how it was in 1935 when the UAW was formed, and that's how it is now.

To Dennis Williams, thank you for your service, your hard work, and your dedication to making life better for working men and women so that we can actually have and sustain and grow an American middle class. I know that the members of the UAW join me in wishing you the very best in your well-earned retirement.

I know that my partner and colleague from Michigan will be coming to the floor in just a bit.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, the history of the United Auto Workers is at the heart of what has made the United States a global economic powerhouse. It is tied to the growth of the thriving manufacturing sector and the birth of the American middle class.

Dennis Williams, UAW president since 2014, is a strong contributor to this history. His leadership reflects a deep commitment to American workers and a clear eye toward the future. Since the union's formation in 1935, UAW members have stood together to ensure that their hard work is met with fair wages, safe workplaces, and reasonable hours. For over 80 years, the voice of the UAW has amplified the voice of the American worker. Dennis Williams is a champion of keeping this voice strong in the 21st century.

Williams joined UAW Local 806 as a salvage welder in 1977, following his service in the U.S. Marine Corps. There, he started his long path of elected union leadership and served as chairman of the Bargaining Committee. In the coming years, Williams would rise to the positions of international representative, Region 4 assistant director, and Region 4 director. In 2010, UAW members elected him as secretary-treasurer, followed by the presidency in 2014.

No matter what position Williams undertook during his decades of UAW leadership, he always stayed true to his roots. After becoming UAW president, he prioritized visiting union plants and locals to engage with members directly. He stated: "I love the smell of black coffee and the smoke of the factory and walking up to UAW members and saying, 'brother' or 'sister'."

His passion for everything the UAW stands for, along with his businesslike approach to tough decisions, enabled Williams to take on some difficult challenges during his presidency.

Just as Williams started in his role, Michigan—home to around one-third of UAW members—had recently become a so-called right-to-work State. Michigan is now one of 28 States with policies designed to undermine union participation and workers' rights to collective bargaining. Despite tides of State and Federal anti-worker efforts, Williams remained practical and optimistic about overcoming any challenges that came the UAW's way. He emphasized the importance of sitting down and talking through issues rather than resorting to confrontation.

Williams was steadfast about not giving up on organizing, and he has actively pursued new approaches to organizing that would keep the UAW strong in the future. His strategy has definitely paid off. During Williams' tenure, he successfully fought for the establishment of local unions at Volkswagen and Mercedes locations in the United States and for casino workers in Las Vegas. Under Williams' leadership, UAW membership has increased by almost 7 percent—over 27,000 new members—between 2014 and 2017. The

growth rate and membership over this past year has been the highest in a 1-year period since 2010.

I am deeply honored by Dennis Williams' representation of over 430,000 UAW members, including tens of thousands of workers in my State of Michigan. I wish him well in his retirement, along with his wife, Donna, of 43 years, his sons, Ryan and Matthew, and his grandchildren, Kendahl and Kai.

I know I speak on behalf of many Michigan workers when I sincerely thank Dennis Williams for his admirable service as the UAW's 11th president.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RUBIO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 20 minutes as in morning business.

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

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, 30 years ago this month, Dr. James Hansen testified before the U.S. Congress on the need to address climate change—30 years ago this month. He was a top NASA climate scientist. On a hot summer day in June of 1988, before the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Dr. Hansen testified that "global warming has reached a level such that we can ascribe with a high degree of confidence a cause and effect relationship between the greenhouse effect and observed warming." He said, "It is already happening now."

Thirty years have passed since then—30 years of added science, 30 years of new science, 30 years of updated reports, and 30 years of mounting evidence of how right Hansen was. Yet, here we still are in Congress still willfully ignoring the unprecedented changes to the climate and the oceans—changes that threaten our planet and its rich array of plant and animal life, changes that put at risk homes, farms, forests, and coasts, changes that affect our very human health and well-being. These are not computer model projections of the distant future but changes we are seeing right before our very eyes now.

Carbon-driven climate change is particularly acute in polar areas. Today, I want to focus on the melting and destabilization of the Antarctic polar ice cap.

Rhode Island is a long way from Antarctica. Florida is a less long way from Antarctica—it is still a pretty long way—but we are coastal States. In Rhode Island, the sea level is already up 11 inches along our shores, and far

more sea level rise, accelerating sea level rise, is expected. The coastal towns and cities in the Presiding Officer's State are seeing similar encroachments of the ocean into their territories.

Here is how Antarctica is changing and what it means for our American shores.

The Antarctic ice sheet spans the South Pole, extending almost 14 million square kilometers—roughly the size of the contiguous United States and Mexico combined. The Antarctic ice sheet is the largest single mass of frozen water on planet Earth, containing 30 million cubic kilometers of ice. If the Antarctic ice sheet were to melt completely, you could actually do fairly simple math as to what would happen to that water. Sea levels could rise 200 feet above current levels, engulfing coastal regions worldwide.

This map shows Florida if we lose the West Antarctic ice sheet. As the map shows, it would inundate much of coastal and southern Florida, putting Miami and other cities completely underwater. It looks about the same here, if you lose the Greenland ice sheet, with there being similar damage and loss to Florida. Yet, here, if you lose the East Antarctic ice sheet, you more or less wipe out the entire State of Florida. You wipe out a few little islands here, a little nub below Georgia there, but essentially Florida is gone.

Imagine the entire population of Florida having to migrate to other States with its State now being uninhabitable. It seems like a crazy notion, but Kentucky's climate planning documents have included the prospect of climate refugees having to flee to Kentucky from America's inundated coasts. So it matters to understand how Antarctic ice sheets work and how they differ from ice shelves.

Ice sheets form on land when more snow accumulates in winter than melts during the summer. Over thousands of years, layers of snow pile up, growing thicker and denser as the weight of new layers compacts the layers below into ice. Over time, that ice flows downhill to the coasts and then ultimately out to sea as glaciers and then ice shelves.

Floating ice shelves surround Antarctica. These shelves physically brace the land-based ice sheet, slowing down its flow into the sea. A rough balance emerges as new snowfall on the ice sheets and the slow flow of the ice balance the melting of the ice shelf around the periphery where the ice shelf meets the ocean. We are now witnessing what appears to be an unraveling of this equilibrium. Climate change is what is causing this massive destabilization.

Since 1950, on the Antarctic Peninsula, the air has warmed 2.5 degrees Celsius. Warming ocean waters erode the West Antarctic ice sheets from below as the warming air melts them from above. Once the ice shelf melts back, you have the loss of the buttress

effect, and the ice sheet on land can then accelerate, with that buttress effect diminished, more rapidly into the sea, causing a more rapid rise in sea level.

The effect of this is actually measurable, and we measure it. Observations from the NASA and German Aerospace Center's twin Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment satellites measure these losses to be around 125 gigatons of ice per year. What is a gigaton of ice? A gigaton is 1 billion tons. Meredith Nettles of the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory at Columbia University described a gigaton-sized piece of ice this way: "If you took the whole National Mall"—here we are in Washington—"and covered it up with ice to a height about four times as high as the [Washington] monument. . . ."

Imagine walking out onto the Capitol steps, looking out all the way down the National Mall to the Washington Monument and imagining that not only to the top of the Washington Monument but four times as high is a single, giant mass of ice—as she said, "all the way down from the Capitol steps to the Lincoln Memorial" and four times as high as the Washington Monument. Then imagine 125 times that—every year.

The destabilization of the ice shelves is most dire in West Antarctica, where research shows the massive Thwaites Glacier retreating at 300 to 400 meters per year along a 125-mile segment. Larger than Pennsylvania, the Thwaites Glacier has discharged more than 100 gigatons of ice per year in recent years. That is the flood of 100 of those blocks that are four times the height of the Washington Monument and running from here all the way to the Lincoln Memorial 100 times every 3 days—another one into the ocean, piling up, piling up. If we lost the Thwaites Glacier, that alone would contribute several meters to global sea level rise.

So far, in Rhode Island, remember, we are dealing with less than 1 foot of sea level rise that we have experienced—6 to 12 feet is predicted—but add this in and the situation of our coastal States become quite dire.

These images were created with NASA satellite data. They show changes in Antarctic ice mass just since 2002. This data does not measure the floating ice shelves which are shown here in gray. On the ice sheets, dark orange and red colors indicate losses of ice sheet mass and light-blue shades indicate gains. Climate deniers focus on the gains in actually a fraudulent abuse of the data and the public's trust, but that is what they do; but, overall, during the past 15 years, the West Antarctic ice sheet experienced major ice mass loss. The darkest red, representing the biggest loss, is at the Thwaites Glacier.

Of course, when glaciers melt, the seas rise. In April, a U.S. Geological Survey study, funded by the Pentagon, found that our military bases on low-

elevation islands may become uninhabitable within mere decades. The recommendation is, we have to start planning to relocate them because they will no longer be useful. Just 2 weeks ago, our National Park Service released a report showing sea level rise damaging park sites like Jamestown and Assateague Island in Virginia and Jean Lafitte National Historical Park in Louisiana. NASA is concerned enough about this Antarctic ice situation that it is launching new satellites to monitor it.

Fossil fuel industry front groups continue to deny and disparage the work of scientists at NOAA, NASA, and other Federal scientific agencies. The polluters have an obedient mouthpiece in the Wall Street Journal editorial page, which just last month ran climate denier Fred Singer denying that rising sea levels observed around the globe are the result of global warming, and of course saying it is not the result of carbon pollution or fossil fuels. The Journal page, of course, neglects to mention this denier's deep connections to the fossil fuel industry, the Heritage Foundation, the Heartland Institute, the CATO Institute, and other climate denial front groups bankrolled by ExxonMobil and the oil industry and the Koch political apparatus.

We even heard a Republican Congressman claim that erosion and rocks falling into the sea are what is driving sea level rise—anything but fossil fuel. He said, "Every time you have that soil or rock or whatever it is that is deposited into the seas, that forces the sea levels to rise, because now you have less space in those oceans, because the bottom is moving up."

It is laughable. Phil Duffy, president of the Woods Hole Research Center and former adviser to the U.S. Global Change Research Program responded: "On human time scales, those are miniscule effects."

Once again, anything for the fossil fuel industry. Complete subservience to the fossil fuel industry seems to be the rule around Congress.

About this sordid political equation, retired U.S. Navy RADM Dr. David Titley probably said it best. He said:

The ice doesn't care. The ice doesn't care who is in the White House. It doesn't care which party controls your Congress. It doesn't care which party controls your Parliament. It just melts.

Of course, in addition to the melt, a warming ocean expands, following the law of thermal expansion, and our coasts, as a result, face new and serious dangers.

Republicans in Congress can continue to ignore all of the evidence, but that doesn't change what our carbon pollution does in the atmosphere and the oceans. Our carbon pollution will still trap heat in the atmosphere. It will still acidify the oceans. The laws of chemistry don't suspend because we can't pass sensible laws to solve this problem. The chemistry and the physics of these effects of our carbon pollu-

tion don't care what we do. The polar icecaps melting don't care that fossil fuel flunkies deny it. Denial of these facts doesn't protect our coasts and doesn't protect our coastal communities from looming danger. One day soon, we are going to have to wake up. Fossil fuel influence or no fossil fuel influence, we are going to have to wake up.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the confirmation vote on the Axon nomination occur at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, June 6; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

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.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for the June 4, 2018, vote on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 542, the nomination of Robert Earl Wier, of Kentucky, to be United States district judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky. I would have voted yea.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I was unavailable for rollcall vote No. 112, on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Robert Earl Wier, of Kentucky, to be United States district judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

Mr. President, I was unavailable for rollcall vote No. 113, on the nomination of Robert Earl Wier, of Kentucky, to be United States district judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

Mr. President, I was unavailable for rollcall vote No. 114, on the motion to

invoke cloture on the nomination of Fernando Rodriguez, Jr., of Texas, to be United States district judge for the Southern District of Texas. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM P. GETTY

• Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the retirement of William P. Getty as president of the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation. Since 1999, Pat has served as president of the foundation, and during his tenure, the region has been blessed with significant opportunities to grow and diversify the economy.

Established in 1944, the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation issues grants primarily in West Virginia and southwestern Pennsylvania. The region served by the foundation is a tribute to the founder Michael Benedum's native home of West Virginia and his strong connection to Pittsburgh, PA, where he built a successful oil and gas exploration business. The foundation administers grants that support education, economic development, health and human services, and community development.

Pat's leadership as president has focused on regional collaboration to capture economic opportunity. First and foremost, the discovery of the Marcellus, Utica, and Rogersville shale deposits have created tremendous opportunity for West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio to not only explore these natural resources but to also capture more downstream value in affiliated sectors of the economy. Pat's leadership in fostering a regional approach and cooperation between leaders in the three States has been instrumental to creating initiatives like the "Power of 32" site development fund and the tristate shale agreement that will help the region maximize the benefit of this opportunity. In addition, he has been an invaluable partner and ambassador for the Appalachian Storage and Trading Hub project, participating in meetings with private sector leaders and government leaders to stress the importance of this project to the region. By working together, we can truly realize the potential for thousands of new jobs and billions in private sector investment.

Pat's contributions as president extends well beyond the energy sector. Under his leadership, the foundation has been a leader in focusing on the importance of STEM education, advanced manufacturing, and transitioning the region to a more technology based economy. Each of these areas is a significant growth opportunity for the region, while at the same time is a tribute to the region's history as a leader in manufacturing and developing natural resources. Pat has also been instrumental in working with community, State, and Federal leaders to

maximize Federal resources and partnerships to spur economic growth.

I wish Pat the best in his retirement and hope that he enjoys this special time with his wife, children, and grandchildren. I know that he will remain engaged as an ambassador for West Virginia and the region.●

TRIBUTE TO THE DALTON BROTHERS

• Mr. PERDUE. Mr. President, May 8 of this year marked the 73rd anniversary of the end of War II in Europe. It was a time to remember the sacrifice of over 400,000 Americans who were killed and over 650,000 Americans who were wounded while fighting to defend our freedoms. In that spirit, I would like to call attention to the story of one of my constituents, James Dalton, and his three brothers: Robert, Rufus, and Harry. These four brothers served in the U.S. military during World War II at the same time, which was extremely rare. Their story is remarkable.

The Dalton brothers, who I am happy to say are still with us today, were born in Charlotte, NC, along with their sister Sally. While three of the Dalton brothers still live in Carolina, James Dalton ultimately settled in Atlanta, GA.

Robert Dalton, Jr., the eldest brother, was deployed in 1944. He landed in France and served as platoon leader in Company I, 3rd Battalion, 121st Regiment of the 8th Division. On September 2, 1944, he was wounded in action. After recovering from his wounds, he spent the remainder of his time in Europe with the 29th Infantry Regiment and advanced to the rank of captain. After returning to the United States, he was discharged with the rank of major. Because of his service, he received a Purple Heart Medal, the Bronze Star, the EAME Service Medal with five Bronze Stars, and the World War II Victory Medal.

James Dalton entered military service in 1943 at the age of 20 and sailed for Europe in November 1944. He served behind the lines in the Rhineland and Central Europe campaigns. He achieved the rank of technical sergeant and was decorated with the American Theater Service Medal, EAME Service Medal with two Bronze Stars, Good Conduct Medal, and World War II Victory Medal.

Rufus Dalton was deployed in October 1944, landing in Marseilles, France. His unit entered the line in the Vosges Mountains in November 1944. They were in constant contact with the German Army until April 1945. At one point, Rufus was injured with a shrapnel wound to the head; yet he still returned to his unit the next day. Rufus was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze star for his service.

The youngest of the four brothers, Harry, entered into military service the day before his 18th birthday in 1945. Harry entered the Naval Radio School

and served at the Shelton Naval Station in Norfolk, Virginia. He also received the World War II Victory Medal and achieved the rank of yeoman third class.

The sacrifice and service of these four brothers is laudable and so is their work in their communities after the war. Between them, the four brothers went on to hold leadership positions in business, the arts, charitable organizations, and their churches over the course of long and successful careers.

I am proud to take this opportunity to honor the life and military service of one of my constituents and his family. The story of the Dalton brothers is an inspiration to us all. I join the entire country in thanking them for their service in one of our country's darkest yet most heroic hours.

Thank you.●

TRIBUTE TO KYLE DENCKER

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I am honored to recognize Kyle Dencker, the Orange County Teacher of the Year from Timber Creek High School in Orlando, FL.

Kyle thanked colleagues, mentors, and administrators for receiving this award and challenged educators to make computer science available at all of the county's public schools. He believes every student should have the opportunity to take computer science.

Colleagues say Kyle recruits students who traditionally avoided computer science, sometimes just by walking around campus, introducing himself and explaining why they might want to learn to code. He has earned national awards for his efforts to recruit young women into computer science and help them succeed in those classes.

Many students have found success in his classroom, in State competitions, and in securing internships. He had 186 students take advanced placement computer science principles last school year, and nearly 77 percent passed the AP exam, exceeding the national rate.

Kyle has been a computer science teacher at Timber Creek High School for 9 years. In that time, enrollment in the school's computer science classes has grown from about 30 students to nearly 400, making it the largest such program in the Orange school district. He has spent nearly a decade getting students to see past the stereotypes regarding computer classes.

I thank Kyle for his dedication to expanding computer science to students that were previously uninterested in this important subject. I express my sincere gratitude to Kyle and look forward to hearing of his continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO JASON POOLE

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Jason Poole, the Clay County Teacher of the Year from Fleming Island High School in Fleming Island, FL.

Jason was named Teacher of the Year because he represents the core values of Clay County District schools: hard work, integrity, and respect. He acts as an example for everyone in the teaching profession. Jason said it was an honor to receive this award and is thankful for all of his colleagues and administrative staff who have supported him throughout his time at Fleming Island High School. He believes there are many great teachers throughout Clay County and will do his best to represent them.

Jason graduated from Western New England University with a degree in English literature in 2005. He teaches AICE Global Perspectives and coaches cross-country, a program he started at the school after he began teaching in 2006.

I extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to Jason for his dedication to his students and look forward to hearing of his continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KATE STURMAN

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Kate Sturman, the Flagler County Teacher of the Year from Rymfire Elementary School in Palm Coast, FL.

When Kate was named Teacher of the Year, she was honored because she felt there were many other amazing teachers at their annual celebration. Her fellow teachers believe she goes above and beyond for students by always volunteering to help with afterschool activities and has been flexible by teaching second, fifth, and sixth grade.

As she describes, there is nothing more rewarding than watching a student blossom from a seed into a magnificent flower. Kate considers herself as not only a teacher for her students, but as a cheerleader, advocate, and friend. She believes to have the most rewarding job in the world and loves teaching for these reasons.

Kate is in her 16th year as a teacher and has been with Flagler Schools since 2005. She moved to Rymfire Elementary School in 2006, teaching second grade for 10 years and sixth grade for 1 year. She currently teaches fifth grade English language arts and social studies. She is also a coach with the school's Future Problem Solvers and Community Problem Solvers.

I express my sincere thanks and appreciation to Kate for all her hard work for her students, and I extend my best wishes for her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KAITLIN VAN HEUSEN

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I honor Kaitlin Van Heusen, the Bradford County Teacher of the Year from Bradford Union Technical Center in Starke, FL.

After receiving this award, Kaitlin told her peers that her inspiration for

teaching comes from the students taking her class. She finds these students to be the ones who are beginning to give up on teachers, the education system, and their own ability to succeed.

Kaitlin takes special pride in watching her students walk across the stage at graduation and speaking in front of their peers. Her joy as an educator comes from seeing their initial struggles and witnessing the moment when it all finally comes together for them.

Kaitlin graduated from the University of Florida in 2015 and Florida Gateway College in 2013. She is an agriculture and diversified career technology teacher and, since 2016, a Future Farmers of America adviser at Bradford-Union Technical Center.

I express my sincere gratitude to Kaitlin for her dedication to teaching and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KIERA VARGAS

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I am pleased to recognize Kiera Vargas, the Madison County Teacher of the Year from Madison County High School in Madison, FL.

Kiera was honored with this award because of her motivation for encouraging and educating her students. As a teacher, she enjoys all aspects and feels her success comes from her personal interactions with her students. Her students note she listens to their needs and helps in every way she can.

These students feel empowered by Kiera as she encourages them to always believe in themselves. She tells them, if they do this while working hard and following their heart, they will achieve their dreams. Kiera feels her students have taught her more than she has taught them.

Kiera was offered her first teaching job while planning to take the dental admission test. She originally planned to be a dentist but realized teaching was her true passion. Kiera says she has never looked back since her first teaching job and has no desire to do anything except teach and assist her students.

She previously worked at the college level as a full-time lecturer for 7 years, taught in K-12 classrooms for 4 years, and served as an adjunct lecturer for several years. Kiera has a bachelor of science degree in journalism and mass communication with a concentration in public relations, a master of science degree in English education, a juris doctor from the Charlotte School of Law, and her masters in library science and information sciences from Drexel University.

I express my appreciation to Kiera for all of the great work she has done for her students and extend my best wishes on her continued success in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING HIGHLANDS BAR & GRILL

● Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Highlands Bar &

Grill for winning the 2018 James Beard Foundation Award for outstanding restaurant on May 7, 2018.

After being a finalist for 9 consecutive years, the Highlands Bar & Grill has finally won this prestigious award. The James Beard Foundation annually presents awards for culinary excellence, and I cannot think of a more deserving restaurant.

Ever since the restaurant's opening in 1982, executive chef and owner Frank Stitt from Cullman, AL, and his wife, Pardis, from Birmingham, AL, have provided a memorable and hospitable culinary experience. Their commitment to providing high-quality food and service have been the foundation for their nationally recognized success.

Contributing to the triumph of the restaurant is pastry chef Dolester Miles, who this year won the 2018 James Beard Foundation Award for outstanding pastry chef. One of the original employees of Highlands Bar & Grill, Dolester's 36-year career is certainly impressive and unparalleled.

Frank Stitt's mentorship and guidance have influenced many other chefs in the Birmingham area and beyond. His ever-changing and inspirational menu has elevated the standard for fine Southern cuisine.

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to Highlands Bar & Grill. This restaurant is one of the finest restaurants in the United States and is an ambassador to the world of fine Southern cuisine.

Please join me in congratulating Highlands Bar & Grill for winning this award and for the restaurant's nearly four decades of success. I have no doubt that it will continue this path of excellence.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT ON THE REVISION OF THE DEFERRAL OF CERTAIN BUDGET AUTHORITY—PM 42

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with accompanying reports and papers; pursuant to the

order of January 30, 1975 as modified by the order of April 11, 1986, referred jointly to the Committees on Appropriations; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the Budget; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Energy and Natural Resources; Environment and Public Works; Finance; Foreign Relations; Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; and the Judiciary:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 1014(c) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 685(c)), I am withdrawing four previously proposed rescissions and reporting revisions to six rescissions previously transmitted to the Congress.

The withdrawals are for the Federal Highway Administration Miscellaneous Appropriations and Miscellaneous Highway Trust Funds accounts of the Department of Transportation, the Environmental Programs and Management account of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the International Disaster Assistance account of the United States Agency for International Development. The six revised rescissions, totaling \$896 million, affect the programs of the Departments of Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development, Labor, and the Treasury, as well as the Corporation for National and Community Service.

The details of the rescission withdrawals and each revised rescission are contained in the attached reports.

DONALD J. TRUMP.

THE WHITE HOUSE, June 5, 2018.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH) announced that on today, June 5, 2018, he had signed the following enrolled bills, which were previously signed by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MOONEY) of the House:

H.R. 3663. An act to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Huntington, West Virginia, as the Hershel "Woody" Williams VA Medical Center.

H.R. 4910. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 5515. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, June 5, 2018, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 2372. An act to establish a permanent community care program for veterans, to establish a commission for the purpose of making recommendations regarding the modernization or realignment of facilities of the Veterans Health Administration, to improve construction of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to the home loan program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. INHOFE, from the Committee on Armed Services, without amendment:

S. 2987. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-262).

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 754. A bill to support meeting our Nation's growing cybersecurity workforce needs by expanding the cybersecurity education pipeline (Rept. No. 115-263).

S. 1520. A bill to expand recreational fishing opportunities through enhanced marine fishery conservation and management, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-264).

By Mr. RISCH, from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship:

Report to accompany S. 2283, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to strengthen the Office of Credit Risk Management within the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-265).

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. INHOFE:

S. 2987. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Armed Services; placed on the calendar.

By Ms. HARRIS (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2988. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the tax treatment of amounts related to employment discrimination and harassment in the workplace, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, and harassment based on protected categories; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BENNET:

S. 2989. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to encourage soil health, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. REED, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 2990. A bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to clarify provisions enacted by the Captive Wildlife Safety Act to

further the conservation of prohibited wildlife species; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. GARDNER):

S. 2991. A bill to amend the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to provide that cybersecurity and grid security improvements are eligible for electric loans and loan guarantees under that Act; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 2992. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to publish a notice of proposed rulemaking concerning seat belts on school buses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 2993. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to include energy storage as renewable energy under the Rural Energy for America Program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. HARRIS (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2994. A bill to deter, prevent, reduce, and respond to harassment in the workplace, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, and harassment based on protected categories; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 2995. A bill to establish the Rural Export Center, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 2996. A bill to make available necessary disaster assistance for families affected by major disasters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2997. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to advance carbon utilization technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. HARRIS:

S. 2998. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to establish the Defense Quantum Information Consortium, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 532. A resolution designating the week of June 4 through June 10, 2018, as "Hemp History Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. JONES, and Mr. WICKER):

S. Res. 533. A resolution commemorating the commissioning of the USS Manchester; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HELLER (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. BLUNT):

S. Res. 534. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of "National Travel and Tourism Week" and honoring the valuable contributions of travel and tourism to the United States; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 116

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 116, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit veterans who have a service-connected, permanent disability rated as total to travel on military aircraft in the same manner and to the same extent as retired members of the Armed Forces entitled to such travel.

S. 319

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 319, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish within the Department of Veterans Affairs a center of excellence in the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of health conditions relating to exposure to burn pits.

S. 448

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 448, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for treatment of clinical psychologists as physicians for purposes of furnishing clinical psychologist services under the Medicare program.

S. 479

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 479, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive co-insurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

S. 783

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 783, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to distribute maternity care health professionals to health professional shortage areas identified as in need of maternity care health services.

S. 802

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 802, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal in honor of Lawrence Eugene "Larry" Doby in recognition of his achievements and contributions to American major league athletics, civil rights, and the Armed Forces during World War II.

S. 910

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 910, a bill to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities who need long-term services and supports, and for other purposes.

S. 1212

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1212, a bill to provide family members of an individual who they fear is a danger to himself, herself, or others, and law enforcement, with new tools to prevent gun violence.

S. 1633

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1633, a bill to promote innovative approaches to outdoor recreation on Federal land and to open up opportunities for collaboration with non-Federal partners, and for other purposes.

S. 1653

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1653, a bill to provide for the overall health and well-being of young people, including the promotion of lifelong sexual health and healthy relationships, and for other purposes.

S. 1676

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1676, a bill to amend the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to provide grants for access to broadband telecommunications services in rural areas, and for other purposes.

S. 1961

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1961, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to temporarily reauthorize certain pilot programs under the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2034

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2034, a bill to strengthen resources for entrepreneurs by improving the SCORE program, and for other purposes.

S. 2038

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) 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. 2114

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2114, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), commonly known as "Merrill's Marauders", in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service in the jungles of Burma during World War II.

S. 2501

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Wyoming

(Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2501, a bill to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to provide for the establishment of a Ski Area Fee Retention Account.

S. 2506

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2506, a bill to establish an aviation maintenance workforce development pilot program.

S. 2579

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2579, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and expand a program of surveillance and education, carried out by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, regarding infections associated with injection drug use.

S. 2591

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2591, a bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration.

S. 2633

At the request of Ms. HARRIS, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2633, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to civil forfeitures relating to certain seized animals, and for other purposes.

S. 2652

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2652, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Stephen Michael Gleason.

S. 2719

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 2719, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a registry to ensure that members of the Armed Forces who may have been exposed to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances on military installations receive information regarding such exposure, and for other purposes.

S. 2735

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2735, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to provide for the establishment of an enhanced cybersecurity assistance and protections for small businesses, and for other purposes.

S. 2764

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Louisiana

(Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2764, a bill to amend and enhance the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act to improve the conservation of sharks, and for other purposes.

S. 2880

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2880, a bill to establish a pilot program for long-term rental assistance for families affected by major disasters in 2017.

S. 2934

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2934, a bill to increase the recruitment and retention of school-based mental health services providers by low-income local educational agencies.

S. 2938

At the request of Mr. SASSE, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2938, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to modify provisions relating to hours of service requirements with respect to transportation of livestock and insects, and for other purposes.

S. 2955

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2955, a bill to reform the Mobility Fund Phase II challenge process conducted by the Federal Communications Commission.

S. 2979

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2979, a bill to rescind certain budget authority proposed to be rescinded in special messages transmitted to the Congress by the President on May 8, 2018, in accordance with title X of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act 1974.

S. RES. 220

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 220, a resolution expressing solidarity with Falun Gong practitioners who have lost lives, freedoms, and rights for adhering to their beliefs and practices and condemning the practice of non-consenting organ harvesting, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 526

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 526, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that politicians should not interfere with a woman's personal health care decisions or attempt to

prevent providers from offering their full medical recommendations to their patients.

S. RES. 527

At the request of Mr. PERDUE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 527, a resolution congratulating the people of Georgia on the 100th anniversary of its declaration of independence as a democratic republic and reaffirming the strength of the relationship between the United States and Georgia.

AMENDMENT NO. 2269

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2269 intended to be proposed to H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 532—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF JUNE 4 THROUGH JUNE 10, 2018, AS “HEMP HISTORY WEEK”

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 532

Whereas Hemp History Week will be held from June 4 through June 10, 2018;

Whereas the goals of Hemp History Week are to commemorate the historical relevance of industrial hemp in the United States and to promote the full growth potential of the industrial hemp industry;

Whereas industrial hemp is an agricultural commodity that has been used for centuries to produce many innovative industrial and consumer products, including soap, fabric, textiles, construction materials, clothing, paper, cosmetics, food, and beverages;

Whereas the global market for hemp is estimated to consist of more than 25,000 products;

Whereas the value of hemp imported into the United States for use in the production of other retail products is estimated at approximately \$76,000,000 annually;

Whereas the United States hemp industry estimates that the annual market value of hemp retail sales in the United States is more than \$688,000,000;

Whereas, despite the legitimate uses of hemp, many agricultural producers of the United States are prohibited under current law from growing hemp;

Whereas, because most hemp cannot be grown legally in the United States, raw hemp material and hemp products are imported for sale in the United States;

Whereas the United States is the largest consumer of hemp products in the world, but the United States is the only major industrialized country that restricts hemp farming; and

Whereas industrial hemp holds great potential to bolster the agricultural economy of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of June 4 through June 10, 2018, as “Hemp History Week”;

(2) recognizes the historical relevance of industrial hemp; and

(3) recognizes the growing economic potential of industrial hemp.

SENATE RESOLUTION 533—COMMEMORATING THE COMMISSIONING OF THE USS “MANCHESTER”

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. JONES, and Mr. WICKER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 533

Whereas the State of New Hampshire has a long and distinguished history of military service dating back to 1680, when militia companies were formed in the State to protect the citizens of New Hampshire;

Whereas New Hampshire sent 3 regiments of minutemen to Boston in the wake of the skirmishes at Lexington and Concord, and many of those minutemen went on to fight gallantly under the command of then Colonel, and future Major General, John Stark at the Battle of Bunker Hill on June 17, 1775;

Whereas Portsmouth shipbuilder John Langdon, who would later become a United States Senator, oversaw the construction of some of the first vessels of the United States Navy, including the sloop-of-war the USS *Ranger*, which was built and equipped for naval hero Captain John Paul Jones;

Whereas the city of Manchester, New Hampshire (commonly known as the “Queen City”), is—

(1) the largest city in northern New England;

(2) an engine for the economy of New Hampshire; and

(3) the namesake of the first industrialized city in the world, Manchester, England;

Whereas the first vessel of the United States Navy to be named for the city of Manchester, New Hampshire, was the USS *Manchester* (CL-83), which—

(1) was a Cleveland class light cruiser commissioned on October 29, 1946;

(2) served with distinction in 3 combat tours during the Korean War; and

(3) received 9 battle stars for her service;

Whereas, on April 16, 2013, Secretary of the Navy Raymond Edwin Mabus, Jr., announced that an Independence class Littoral Combat Ship (commonly known as an “LCS”) would be named the “USS *Manchester*” (referred to in this preamble as the “USS *Manchester* (LCS-14)”);

Whereas, on June 29, 2015, there was a keel-laying ceremony for the USS *Manchester* (LCS-14) in Mobile, Alabama;

Whereas, on May 7, 2016, the USS *Manchester* (LCS-14) was christened in Mobile, Alabama, and sponsored by United States Senator Jeanne Shaheen;

Whereas, on May 12, 2016, the United States Navy launched the USS *Manchester* (LCS-14); and

Whereas the USS *Manchester* (LCS-14)—

(1) will join the USS *New Hampshire* (SSN-778) fast attack submarine in the United States Navy fleet; and

(2) will be commissioned in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, on May 26, 2018: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate commemorates the commissioning of the United States Ship *Manchester* (LCS-14), the mission of which will be to act as a networked, agile, stealthy

surface combatant capable of defeating anti-access and asymmetric threats in the littorals.

SENATE RESOLUTION 534—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF “NATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK” AND HONORING THE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF TRAVEL AND TOURISM TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. HELLER (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. BLUNT) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 534

Whereas “National Travel and Tourism Week” was established in 1983 through the enactment of the Joint Resolution entitled “Joint Resolution to designate the week beginning May 27, 1984, as ‘National Tourism Week’” (Public Law 98-178; 97 Stat. 1126), on November 29, 1983, which recognized the value of travel and tourism;

Whereas “National Travel and Tourism Week” is celebrated across the United States from May 6 through May 12, 2018;

Whereas more than 500 celebrations throughout the United States are scheduled in honor of “National Travel and Tourism Week”;

Whereas 1 out of every 9 jobs in the United States depends on travel and tourism;

Whereas the travel and tourism industry supports 15,600,000 jobs in the United States;

Whereas the travel and tourism industry employs individuals in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and all the territories of the United States;

Whereas international travel to the United States—

(1) is the single largest service export industry in the United States; and

(2) generates a trade surplus balance of approximately \$84,000,000,000;

Whereas the travel and tourism industry have worked to streamline the visa process and make the United States welcoming to visitors from other countries;

Whereas travel and tourism provide significant economic benefits to the United States by generating nearly \$2,400,000,000,000 in annual economic output;

Whereas leisure travel allows individuals to experience the rich cultural heritage and educational opportunities of the United States and communities in the United States; and

Whereas the immense value of travel and tourism cannot be overstated: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of “National Travel and Tourism Week”;

(2) commends the travel and tourism industry for important contributions to the United States; and

(3) commends the employees of the travel and tourism industry for important contributions to the United States.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2271. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal

year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2272. Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. ROBERTS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2273. Mr. ROUNDS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2274. Mr. ROUNDS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2271. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle I of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 896. SCALE-UP MANUFACTURING INVESTMENT PROGRAM.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Scale-up Manufacturing Investment Company Act of 2018”.

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the strength of the United States manufacturing sector is critical to the economy and the global competitiveness of the United States;

(2) United States manufacturers support 17,600,000 jobs in the United States and account for 12 percent of the gross domestic product of the United States;

(3) access to capital is essential to growth and innovation in the manufacturing sector;

(4) small, emerging manufacturers face unique challenges scaling commercial production in the United States, driving many young manufacturers to other countries;

(5) structural barriers exist in the United States that prevent key investments in first-commercial manufacturing facilities;

(6) a healthy manufacturing sector is essential to innovation economy of the United States, providing three-quarters of all private sector research and development, employing nearly two-thirds of all research and development workers, and producing the majority of all patents issued;

(7) technology-intensive manufacturing small businesses, some of which may be start-ups, with the potential to anchor the next generation of manufacturing production where they locate, face special challenges in accessing the capital to move from idea to prototype and into commercial production;

(8) already more capital intensive than software or services start-ups, manufacturing start-ups and small businesses face a “second and wider valley of death” when it comes to raising the capital to scale up for commercial production because of their capital intensity and novel technology;

(9) a number of countries, including the People’s Republic of China, South Korea, Germany, and Japan, provide publicly funded incentives to attract these firms, recognizing that despite the risks, the long-term benefits of establishing leadership in emerging technology areas are large;

(10) a study of manufacturing technology-intensive start-ups licensed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology found that almost all that scaled up into commercial

production did so overseas largely because of this far more attractive capital and investment environment for manufacturing start-ups, which is a huge loss for the future of manufacturing in the United States;

(11) if the United States loses the first generation of production for a new technology or manufacturing process, history suggests that it is an uphill battle once lost to reclaim that capability here given the unique learning and know-how acquired during the building of that first factory; and

(12) to ensure that manufacturing technologies invented in the United States are ultimately made in the United States will require addressing the unique capital access challenges faced by these technology-intensive manufacturing start-ups.

(c) SCALE-UP MANUFACTURING INVESTMENT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 681 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“PART D—SCALE-UP MANUFACTURING INVESTMENT COMPANY PROGRAM

“SEC. 399A. DEFINITIONS.

“In this part—

“(1) the term ‘Associate Administrator’ means the Associate Administrator described in section 201;

“(2) the term ‘Council’ means the Scale-Up Manufacturing Investment Company Credit Council that may be established under section 399K;

“(3) the term ‘participating investment fund’ means a privately managed investment fund licensed under section 399C to operate under the program;

“(4) the term ‘private capital’ has the meaning given that term in section 103(9);

“(5) the term ‘program’ means the scale-up manufacturing investment company program established under section 399B;

“(6) the term ‘qualifying manufacturing project’ means an investment in a small and emerging manufacturer for the purposes of building first commercial production facilities, novel manufacturing capabilities, or the introduction into production of emerging manufacturing technologies;

“(7) the term ‘small and emerging manufacturer’ means any advanced manufacturer that does not exceed the size standard established by the Administrator for the applicable North American Industry Classification System code under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632); and

“(8) the term ‘small business concern owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals’ has the meaning given that term in section 8(d)(3)(C) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(d)(3)(C)).

“SEC. 399B. ESTABLISHMENT.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall establish and carry out a scale-up manufacturing investment company program under which the Administrator shall provide leverage to participating investment funds to support debt and equity investments in qualifying manufacturing projects of small and emerging manufacturers in the United States.

“(b) ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAM.—The program shall be administered by the Administrator acting through the Associate Administrator.

“SEC. 399C. SELECTION OF PARTICIPATING INVESTMENT FUNDS.

“(a) APPLICATION FOR LICENSE.—

“(1) SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION.—An investment fund desiring to receive a license to operate under the program shall submit an application to the Administrator at such time and in such manner as the Administrator may require.

“(2) REQUIREMENT.—An application submitted under paragraph (1) shall demonstrate that the investment fund—

“(A) has the requisite minimum private capital raised from investors; and

“(B) committed to operate under the program as of the date of submission of the application.

“(3) STATUS.—Not later than 90 days after the initial receipt by the Administrator of an application submitted under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall provide the applicant with a written report detailing the status of the application and any requirements remaining for completion of the application.

“(b) SELECTION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Administrator receives an application under subsection (a), the Administrator shall approve or deny the application for a license to operate under the program and notify the applicant of the determination.

“(2) CRITERIA.—The Administrator shall establish selection criteria to evaluate applications to operate under the program, which shall include, at a minimum—

“(A) the proven investment experience of the investment fund manager;

“(B) the proven, balanced, and positive-investment track record of a previous investment fund or the principals and fund performance analysis measured against benchmarks and peer funds;

“(C) the experience of the investment fund with investments relating to small manufacturers and emerging technologies related to advanced manufacturing;

“(D) an evaluation of the use of leverage by the investment fund managers in past deals;

“(E) evidence indicating a cohesive and effective team and team dynamic;

“(F) principals with strong reputations;

“(G) record of positive realizations and exits from previous investments in the investment track record;

“(H) clearly articulated focus, investment thesis, investment themes, and investment instruments to be used to capitalize companies; and

“(I) fund structure and economics that reflects standard practices and industry norms, such as—

“(i) preferred returns to limited partners;

“(ii) general partner carried interest allocations, fees and vesting schedules;

“(iii) adequate fund infrastructure and supporting back office services; and

“(iv) evidence of fund raising traction and capability.

“(c) FEES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administration shall prescribe fees to be paid by each applicant for a license to operate as a participating investment fund under the program.

“(2) USE OF AMOUNTS.—Fees collected under this subsection—

“(A) shall be deposited in the account for salaries and expenses of the Administration; and

“(B) are authorized to be appropriated solely to cover the costs of licensing examinations.

“SEC. 399D. PROVISION OF LEVERAGE TO PARTICIPATING INVESTMENT FUNDS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the Administrator approves and issues a license under section 399C to operate as a participating investment fund under the program, the Administrator may provide not more than \$1 of leverage for every \$1 of private capital raised by the participating investment fund.

“(b) MAXIMUM LEVERAGE.—The maximum amount of outstanding leverage made available in any given fiscal year—

“(1) to any participating investment fund may not exceed \$500,000,000; and

“(2) to all participating investment funds in aggregate may not exceed \$1,000,000,000.

“(c) PRIVATE CAPITAL REQUIREMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The private capital of a participating investment fund shall be not less than \$250,000,000.

“(2) FINANCIAL INSTITUTION INVESTMENTS.—Any national bank, or any member bank of the Federal Reserve System or nonmember insured bank to the extent permitted under applicable State law, may invest in any 1 or more participating investment funds, or in any entity established to invest solely in participating investment funds, except that in no event shall the total amount of such investments of any such bank exceed 5 percent of the capital and surplus of the bank.

“(d) LEVERAGE FEE.—The Administrator shall charge and collect a leverage fee of not more than 5.5 percent and not less than 3 percent of the face amount of the leverage issued.

“SEC. 399E. BORROWING POWER.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Each participating investment fund shall have the authority to borrow money and issue debentures and preferred securities, subject to such limitations and regulations as the Administration may prescribe.

“(b) LIMITATION.—Of the leverage provided by the Administrator to a participating investment fund under section 399D—

“(1) not less than 70 percent shall be issued as debentures under subsection (a); and

“(2) not more than 30 percent may be issued as preferred securities under subsection (a).

“(c) FEDERAL FINANCING BANK.—The Federal Financing Bank may acquire a debenture issued by a participating investment fund company under subsection (a).

“(d) PURCHASE AND GUARANTEE BY SBA.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administration may purchase or guarantee the timely payment of all principal and interest as scheduled on debentures or preferred securities issued by participating investment funds under subsection (a), subject to such limitations and regulations as the Administration may prescribe.

“(2) FULL FAITH AND CREDIT.—The full faith and credit of the United States is pledged to the payment of all amounts which may be required to be paid under any guarantee under this subsection.

“(e) THIRD-PARTY DEBT.—The Administrator—

“(1) shall not permit a participating investment fund having outstanding leverage to incur third-party debt that would create or contribute to an unreasonable risk of default or loss to the Federal Government; and

“(2) shall permit such participating investment funds to incur third-party debt only on such terms and subject to such conditions as may be established by the Administrator, by regulation or otherwise.

“(f) CALCULATION OF SUBSIDY RATE.—All fees, interest, and profits received and retained by the Administration under this section and section 399D shall be included in the calculations made by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to offset the cost (as that term is defined in section 502 of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661a)) to the Administration of purchasing and guaranteeing debentures and preferred securities under this Act.

“SEC. 399F. INVESTMENTS IN SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—A participating investment fund shall use leverage received under section 399D to make debt and equity investments in small and emerging manufacturers to carry out qualifying manufacturing projects.

“(b) LIMITATION.—Not more than 50 percent of the amount provided by a participating investment fund to a small and emerging manufacturer under subsection (a) for a qualifying manufacturing project shall consist of leverage provided to the participating investment fund under the program.

“(c) PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT.—A single investment made by a participating investment fund under subsection (a) may not exceed 10 percent of the total capital of the participating investment fund, which includes private capital and any leverage projected to be provided to the participating investment fund, if applicable.

“(d) INCREASED OUTREACH.—The Administration shall issue policy directives to provide for enhanced outreach efforts to increase investments by participating investment funds in—

“(1) a small business concern owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals; and

“(2) small business concerns owned and controlled by—

“(A) women;

“(B) veterans; and

“(C) individuals with disabilities.

“SEC. 399G. EXAMINATIONS AND VALUATIONS.

“(a) EXAMINATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each participating investment fund shall be subject to examinations made at the direction of the Investment Division of the Administration in accordance with this subsection.

“(2) ASSISTANCE OF PRIVATE SECTOR ENTITIES.—Examinations under this subsection may be conducted with the assistance of a private sector entity that has the qualifications and the expertise necessary to conduct such examinations.

“(3) COSTS.—

“(A) ASSESSMENT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may assess the cost of examinations under this subsection, including compensation of the examiners, against the participating investment fund examined.

“(ii) PAYMENT.—Any participating investment fund against which the Administrator assesses costs under subparagraph (A) shall pay such costs.

“(B) DEPOSIT OF FUNDS.—Funds collected under this subsection—

“(i) shall be deposited in the account for salaries and expenses of the Administration; and

“(ii) are authorized to be appropriated solely to cover the costs of examinations and other program oversight activities.

“(b) VALUATIONS.—

“(1) FREQUENCY OF VALUATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each participating investment fund shall submit to the Administrator a written valuation of the loans and investments of the participating investment fund not less often than semiannually or otherwise upon the request of the Administrator, except that any participating investment fund with no leverage outstanding shall submit such valuations annually, unless the Administrator determines otherwise.

“(B) MATERIAL ADVERSE CHANGES.—Not later than 30 days after the end of a fiscal quarter of a participating investment fund during which a material adverse change in the aggregate valuation of the loans and investments or operations of the participating investment fund occurs, the participating investment fund shall notify the Administrator in writing of the nature and extent of that change.

“(C) INDEPENDENT CERTIFICATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not less than once during each fiscal year, each participating investment fund shall submit to the Administrator the financial statements of the participating investment fund, audited by an

independent certified public accountant approved by the Administrator.

“(ii) **AUDIT REQUIREMENTS.**—Each audit conducted under clause (i) shall include—

“(I) a review of the procedures and documentation used by the participating investment fund in preparing the valuations required by this subsection; and

“(II) a statement by the independent certified public accountant that such valuations were prepared in conformity with the valuation criteria applicable to the participating investment fund established in accordance with paragraph (2).

“(2) **VALUATION CRITERIA.**—Each valuation submitted under this subsection shall be prepared by the participating investment fund in accordance with valuation criteria, which shall—

“(A) be established or approved by the Administrator; and

“(B) include appropriate safeguards to ensure that the noncash assets of a participating investment fund are not overvalued.

“SEC. 399H. MISCELLANEOUS.

“The Administrator may take such action as set forth in sections 309, 311, 312, 314, 315, and 316 and an owner (including a member, partner, or shareholder), officer, director, employee, agent, or other participant in the management or conduct of the affairs of a participating investment fund shall be subject to the requirements of such sections.

“SEC. 399I. VIOLATIONS; REMOVAL OR SUSPENSION OF MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS.

“(a) **VIOLATIONS.**—If any participating investment fund violates or fails to comply with any of the provisions of this part or of regulations prescribed hereunder, all of its rights, privileges, and franchises derived therefrom may thereby be forfeited. Before any such participating investment fund shall be declared dissolved, or its rights, privileges, and franchises forfeited, any non-compliance with or violation of this Act shall be determined and adjudged by a court of the United States of competent jurisdiction in a suit brought for that purpose in the district, territory, or other place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, in which the principal office of such participating investment fund is located. Any such suit shall be brought by the United States at the instance of the Administration or the Attorney General.

“(b) **SUSPENSION OF MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS.**—Using the procedures for removing or suspending a director or an officer of a licensee set forth in section 313, the Administrator may remove or suspend any management official of a participating investment fund.

“SEC. 399J. REPORTS.

“Each participating investment fund shall, on a semi-annual basis, provide to the Administrator such information as the Administrator may require, including—

“(1) information related to the measurement criteria that the participating investment fund proposed in the application for the program;

“(2) information on the use of leverage by the participating investment fund; and

“(3) in each case in which the participating investment fund makes an investment in a small business concern that is not a small business concern owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, a report on the number and percentage of employees of the small business concern who are socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.

“SEC. 399K. SCALE-UP MANUFACTURING INVESTMENT COMPANY CREDIT COUNCIL.

“(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Administrator may establish a Scale-Up Manufacturing Investment Company Credit Council, which, if

established, shall consist of 5 members from the private sector with aggregate and collective experience in technology development, manufacturing financing, and capital investment.

“(b) **DUTIES.**—The Council, if established, shall advise the Administrator on carrying out the program, which shall include—

“(1) providing advice from time to time on advanced scale-up manufacturing industries; and

“(2) establishing and conducting an annual briefing beginning not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this section.

“SEC. 399L. REGULATIONS.

“The Administrator may issue such regulations as the Administrator determines necessary to carry out the provisions of this part in accordance with its purposes.”.

(2) **BANK HOLDING COMPANY ACT OF 1956.**—Section 13(d)(1)(E) of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1851(d)(1)(E)) is amended by inserting “investments in 1 or more participating investment funds, as defined in section 399A of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958,” before “or investments”.

(3) **INELIGIBILITY FOR BANKRUPTCY.**—Section 109(b)(2) of title 11, United States Code, is amended by inserting “a participating investment fund as defined in section 399A of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958,” before “credit union”.

(4) **ELIGIBILITY FOR CRA CREDIT.**—Section 804 of the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977 (12 U.S.C. 2903) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) **INVESTMENTS IN PARTICIPATING INVESTMENT FUNDS.**—In assessing and taking into account, under subsection (a), the record of a financial institution, the appropriate Federal financial supervisory agency shall consider, as a factor, investments made in 1 or more participating investment funds under part D of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958.”.

SA 2272. Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. ROBERTS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. 10 . . . MODIFICATION OF FIRST DIVISION MONUMENT.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The Society of the First Infantry Division (which is an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code), may make modifications to the First Division Monument located on Federal land in President’s Park in Washington, DC, that was set aside for memorial purposes of the First Infantry Division.

(b) **INCLUSIONS.**—The modifications authorized under subsection (a) may include the construction of additional plaques, and the construction of additional stone plinths on which to place the plaques, to honor the members of the First Infantry Division who paid the ultimate sacrifice during United States operations, including Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn, and Operation Enduring Freedom.

(c) **REQUIRED CONSULTATION.**—The First Infantry Division at the Department of the

Army shall collaborate with the Secretary of Defense to provide the list of the not more than 5,000 names of members of the First Infantry Division to be added to the Monument.

(d) **APPLICATION OF COMMEMORATIVE WORKS ACT.**—Subsections (b) and (c) of section 8903 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the “Commemorative Works Act”), shall not apply to activities authorized under this section.

(e) **FUNDING.**—Federal funds may not be used to pay any costs of the activities authorized under this section.

SA 2273. Mr. ROUNDS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . . . REPORT ON PARTICIPATION IN THE TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than February 28, 2019, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on participation in the Transition Assistance Program under section 1144 of title 10, United States Code, by members of the Armed Forces.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Information on the participation of members of the Armed Forces in the Transition Assistance Program during 2018, including the following:

(A) The number of members who were eligible for participation in the Program during 2018, in aggregate and by component of the Armed Forces.

(B) The number of members who participated in the Program during 2018, in aggregate and by component of the Armed Forces, for each service as follows:

(i) Preseparation counseling provided by the Department of Defense.

(ii) Briefings provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(iii) Employment workshops provided by the Department of Labor.

(C) The number of members who did not participate in the Program during 2018 due to a waiver of the participation requirement under section 114(c)(2) of title 10, United States Code, for each service set forth in subparagraph (B).

(2) Such recommendations for legislative or administrative action as the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the Secretary of Homeland Security, considers appropriate to increase participation of members of the Armed Forces in each service set forth in paragraph (1)(B).

(3) Assessments of the Transition Assistance Program by members of the Armed Forces who participated in the Program during 2018, including the following:

(A) A summary of the data obtained by the Department of Defense through assessments of the Program by participants in the Program during 2018, including data obtained through the assessments as follows:

(i) The Transition Goals Plans Success (GPS) Participant Assessment.

(ii) Status of Forces Surveys (SOFS).

(B) A summary of the conclusions derived by the Secretary of Defense from the data described in subparagraph (A).

(4) Such recommendations for improvements to the Transition Assistance Program as the Secretary of Defense considers appropriate in light of the data described by paragraph (3)(A) and the conclusions described by paragraph (3)(B), including recommendations for such legislative or administrative action as the Secretary considers appropriate to carry out such improvements.

SA 2274. Mr. ROUNDS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title X, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . PROTECTING MILITARY FAMILIES' 2ND AMENDMENT RIGHTS.

(a) RECEIPT OF FIREARM OR AMMUNITION BY SPOUSE OF MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES AT A DUTY STATION OF THE MEMBER OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—Section 925(a)(3) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting “, or to the spouse of such a member,” before “or to”;

(2) by striking “members,” and inserting “members and spouses,”;

(3) by striking “members or” and inserting “members, spouses, or”;

(4) by striking “member or” and inserting “member, spouse, or”.

(b) RESIDENCY OF SPOUSES OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES TO BE DETERMINED ON THE SAME BASIS AS THE RESIDENCY OF SUCH MEMBERS FOR PURPOSES OF FEDERAL FIREARMS LAWS.—Section 921(b) of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(b) For purposes of this chapter, a member of the Armed Forces on active duty, or a spouse of such a member, is a resident of—

“(1) the State in which the member or spouse maintains legal residence;

“(2) the State in which the permanent duty station of the member is located; and

“(3) the State in which the member maintains a place of abode from which the member commutes each day to the permanent duty station of the member.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to conduct engaged in after the 6-month period that begins on the date of the enactment of this Act.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I have 6 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 5, 2018, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the ses-

sion of the Senate on Tuesday, June 5, 2018, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: George Mosbacher, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Poland, and Stephen Akard, of Indiana, to be Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, with the rank of Ambassador, both of the Department of State, and Mark Rosen, of Connecticut, to be United States Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 24, 2018, at 2 p.m. to conduct a closed hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION, PRODUCT SAFETY, INSURANCE, AND DATA SECURITY

The Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance, and Data Security of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 5, 2018, at 3 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled “Preventing Abuse in Olympic and Amateur Athletics: Ensuring Safe and Secure Environment for our Athletes.”

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OCEANS, ATMOSPHERE, FISHERIES, AND COAST GUARD

The Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 5, 2018, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled “A Decade of the Digital Coast Partnership Program: Successes and Opportunities.”

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EAST ASIA, THE PACIFIC, AND INTERNATIONAL CYBERSECURITY POLICY

The Subcommittee on East Asia, The Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy of the Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 5, 2018, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled “Next Steps on U.S. Policy toward North Korea.”

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Jennifer Ayscue, a fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the Congress.

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

AUTHORIZING USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 113, which was received from the House.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 113) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 113) was agreed to.

HEMP HISTORY WEEK

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 532, submitted earlier today.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 532) designating the week of June 4 through June 10, 2018, as “Hemp History Week.”

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

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The resolution (S. Res. 532) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

COMMEMORATING THE COMMISSIONING OF THE USS “MANCHESTER”

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 533, submitted earlier today.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 533) commemorating the commissioning of the USS Manchester.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 533) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF "NATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK"

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 534, submitted earlier today.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 534) supporting the goals and ideals of "National Travel and Tourism Week" and honoring the valuable contributions of travel and tourism to the United States.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 534) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

SMALL BUSINESS 7(a) LENDING OVERSIGHT REFORM ACT OF 2018

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 431, H.R. 4743.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4743) to amend the Small Business Act to strengthen the Office of Credit Risk Management within the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 4743) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2017

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2333 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title. The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2333) to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to increase the amount of leverage made available to small business investment companies.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 2333) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 2018

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, June 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. Finally, I ask that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Axon nomination under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 BROWN.

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

The Senator from Ohio.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, last month in the Banking Committee, we passed bipartisan legislation to give our country more tools to respond to foreign investments from countries like China that pose a threat to our national security. I appreciate the Presiding Officer's interest in this issue also.

The Senate Banking bill was attached to the Defense bill in the Armed Services Committee later that week, and the House also passed a similar bill through a key committee at the same time. This is good news as we try to address threats to our national security, and I hope we can get this to the President's desk quickly.

The Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States—so-called CFIUS—screens foreign investments for national security threats and

blocks those that undermine our national security. But as countries like China have adopted new tactics and new techniques to acquire our critical knowledge and know-how, the laws that give CFIUS its authority haven't been able to keep up with technology; hence, the reason that Senator CORNYN and Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator VAN HOLLEN and Senator CRAPO and I have worked on this. I want to thank them for introducing legislation last fall to expand CFIUS's authority to keep up with these new tactics.

The Banking Committee bill builds on their efforts to modernize CFIUS to make sure that it has the tools it needs to tackle today's threats. No country—not even close—no country has been more aggressive than the People's Republic of China in going after American technology in aviation, robotics, new energy vehicles, and others where the United States has established itself as a global leader for a long time.

In just 3 years, from 2013 to 2015—from the beginning of 2013 to the end of 2015—the number of Chinese acquisitions coming under CFIUS review jumped 38 percent. And China is getting more clever, more sneaky—you can choose the word you like—at finding ways to get around the rules to avoid review at all.

We have seen Chinese companies start to structure deals so that they can gain access to sensitive technology and information without triggering the CFIUS review. For example, if a Chinese investor wants to buy a controlling stake in an American company, CFIUS would review that deal and have the chance to block it. But if Chinese investors instead got seats on that company's board, they could still have access to the same sensitive technology without going through the CFIUS review. Or some foreign investors also might, for instance, decide to enter into a joint venture with an American company instead, giving them access to all of the technology and data and know-how but bypassing the CFIUS review process.

The American business may not even particularly like joining up with this Chinese company, but the Chinese company will coerce them into a joint venture as a condition. This is what China is really good at, and U.S. corporations have been too weak-kneed in succumbing to this as a condition for continued access to the Chinese market. They play for keeps. Our corporations play far too often for narrow profits, even if at the end it is bad for American national security and even if at the end it is bad for American economic security.

Our bipartisan bill will give CFIUS and our export control agencies the tools they need to ensure that these types of investments don't slip through the cracks. The bill strengthens the CFIUS review process, the export control laws, and enforcement of both, particularly when it comes to critical technology and investments from

State-owned companies. But, so often, and as important as these updates are, CFIUS was created only to deal with national security threats but can't do any more than that. Right now, we have no way to evaluate deals that may pose a threat to our economy.

In 2016, foreign direct investments in the United States totaled \$370 billion. None of that—not a dollar of that—was reviewed to ensure it was in our long-term strategic economic interests. So while some of those investments were reviewed to protect our national security from Chinese threats, not one dollar was examined, was screened, was looked at, was reviewed to ensure that it was in our long-term strategic economic interests.

That is why I joined with Senator GRASSLEY to introduce the bipartisan U.S. Foreign Investments Review Act. It would empower the Department of Commerce to begin screening all types of large foreign investments for their long-term economic impact and consequences for American workers and American businesses.

I thank Senator GRASSLEY for working on this important legislation. Updating CFIUS is important for our national security. That is paramount, but we also need to expand it because it is important that our economic interests be protected.

We understand that the Chinese subsidize their energy, water, land, and capital. They often are state-owned enterprises. They are so often able to come into our markets and simply break international trade rules and put our companies out of business and throw our workers out of work.

(Mr. KENNEDY assumed the chair.)

We have seen foreign investments here that have raised serious concerns,

including worries that those companies are pursuing investments for the sole reason or the principal reason of undermining American industries and giving their own companies an unfair advantage. Again, some of these companies are owned or controlled by foreign governments. When it is Chinese, especially, their water, land, capital, and energy are subsidized, and it takes away our ability to compete because we don't do that.

We took a first step with an amendment in the CFIUS reform bill. For the first time, the Department of Commerce—in this bill that the Presiding Officer and I worked on in the Banking Committee—for the first time, the Department of Commerce will be required to study what American companies China is buying and in what sectors so we can begin to assess how big the threat is. Now we need to move forward with our comprehensive bill.

We surely know there are Chinese investments in the Presiding Officer's State of Louisiana and my State of Ohio. There are Chinese investments coming in that could, in fact, undermine our economic security, could cost our companies business, and could cause some companies to go out of business because of Chinese subsidies for their investments and ultimately put workers in Louisiana, Ohio, and elsewhere out of business.

It is simple. Before we do business with a foreign entity—whether the Government of China or companies subsidized by governments in that part of the world—let's make sure it will create jobs, let's make sure it will grow the U.S. economy, and let's make sure it will not undermine our national security or American industries. We are already behind when it comes to pro-

tecting our economy from Chinese investment.

I welcome investment from around the world, but I don't welcome it if it is going to undermine our national security, and I don't welcome it if it is going to put American companies out of business and American workers out of jobs. Senator GRASSLEY and I will continue working to change that. It is time to move forward.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:28 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, June 6, 2018, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nomination received by the Senate:

IN THE MARINE CORPS

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

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JOHN K. LOVE

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate June 5, 2018:

THE JUDICIARY

ROBERT EARL WIER, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY.

FERNANDO RODRIGUEZ, JR., OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to proudly recognize Congregation Beth Shalom in Northbrook, Illinois on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

Congregation Beth Shalom is the spiritual home to more than one thousand families and is, without a doubt, an integral part of the Northbrook community.

For the past half century, from generation to generation, the synagogue has pursued a mission of enriching lives through inclusion in the ever-evolving ideals of Jewish observance, life-long learning, and acts of kindness.

Across the years, Beth Shalom has built an extraordinary community of Jewish faith, family and tradition. Every day, through the annual cycle of the seasons, and across the long arc of life's events, multiple generations join together to pray, learn, teach, and work together in service to the community, the Jewish people and the State of Israel.

Through Limud (study), Tefillah (prayer), and Tzedakah (acts of justice and loving kindness), Beth Shalom is a living example of Jewish values and vibrant Jewish life.

The Congregation prides itself on warmth and friendliness to members, celebrating that "Shalom" is the Hebrew word meaning welcome. I can think of no better example of this warmth than the special holiday services customized to embrace people with special needs.

Beth Shalom is also a force for positive social action in the Tenth District. Their activities include delivering groceries to families in need, feeding the homeless, supporting our military troops overseas, hosting blood drives, and mentoring youth attending school in inner city Chicago.

As well, Beth Shalom is proud home to countless community leaders, young and old, who work tirelessly to improve lives in the Chicago area, our nation and the world.

I congratulate my dear friends, Rabbi Aaron Melman, Assistant Rabbi Ari Averbach, Cantor Steven Stoehr, and Rabbi Emeritus Carl Wolkin, and the entire Beth Shalom Congregation on this anniversary.

I wish Congregation Beth Shalom many more years of success as they write the next fifty years of their history.

IN CELEBRATION OF CARLO VERARDI

HON. LEE M. ZELDIN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize WWII veteran Carlo Verardi upon the oc-

casation of his 100th birthday. Carlo was born on June 8, 1918, in Bernardsville, New Jersey. He was one of 13 children in a proud Italian-American immigrant family.

Upon completing basic training, Carlo was assigned to the 9th Division, 60th Infantry, Front Line Medical Battalion as medic. He served with distinction in the European and African Theaters. During his service in the European Theater, Carlo was seriously wounded by a grenade as he rescued a soldier from the field of battle. The blast from grenade was so strong that both Carlo and the wounded soldier were thrown through the air. Miraculously both men survived, but Carlo was paralyzed from the waist down for over a year and was evacuated to London hospital to recover from his injuries. For his actions, Carlo received the Bronze Star Medal. After nearly four years of service, he received an honorable discharge with the Combat Medical Badge, Combat Infantryman Badge, WWII Victory Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with three service stars, Army of Occupation Medal and American Defense Service Medal.

Upon returning home, Carlo met and married his wife, Mary. Together they raised five children. Carlo worked for the City of New York in the Parks Department and retired after 30 years. A passion for remembering and honoring those who fought during WWII is a cause that drove Carlo and his wife Mary to contribute greatly to the construction of the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C. A contribution that will serve as an eternal monument to the brave service members, like Carlo, who sacrificed so much in defense of our great nation.

MARGARET AGNEW

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Margaret Agnew for receiving the 2018 Trivium Health and SilverSneakers National Instructor of the Year Award.

This award honors SilverSneakers instructors who put in tireless dedication and efforts into making their classes a great experience and encouraging members to get more out of life. Margaret was selected as the winner based on her experience and teaching style. She has more than 34 years of experience as an instructor and teaches nine different SilverSneakers classes at Apex Community Recreation Center in Arvada, Colorado.

Margaret's commitment to those she teaches is commendable and has helped many class members become inspired and motivated to live their best life.

Congratulations to Margaret Agnew for this well-deserved recognition by Trivium Health and SilverSneakers.

IN HONOR OF MRS. VEOLA DOTSON PORTER

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great woman of faith, compassion, dignity, grace and a dear friend of longstanding to my wife Vivian and me, Mrs. Veola Dotson Porter. Sadly, Mrs. Porter passed away on Tuesday, May 29, 2018. Her funeral service was Tuesday, June 5, 2018, at 11:00 am at the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia.

Mrs. Porter was born on November 28, 1921, in Gentian, Georgia to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Dotson, Sr. She was the eldest of six children that were born to this union. Her formative years were spent in what is now the Milgen Road-University Avenue area in Columbus, Georgia.

Her life would change forever when she met Mr. Jake D. Porter, Sr. at the Smith Grove AME Zion Church. She married Mr. Porter in 1942 and five children were born to this union.

Her life was truly blessed because of her love for God and her family. She learned from the Christian example of her parents and passed the lessons learned on to her children who in turn are passing them on to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Moreover, she had a love for people and this fueled her desire at a very young age to become a nurse. She attended and graduated from Practical Nursing School in Columbus. Her nursing career began at St. Francis Hospital and ended with her becoming a private duty nurse with a specialization in New Born Care. During her nursing career, she upheld the principles as enunciated in the last sentence of the original Florence Nightingale Pledge: "I shall be loyal to my work and devoted toward the welfare of those committed to my care." I believe Florence Nightingale would have been proud that such a woman entered her beloved profession. She ended her distinguished nursing career after 40 years and went on to serve as a faithful volunteer at the information desk at the Columbus Government Center.

Mrs. Porter achieved much success in her life, but none of it would have been possible without her strong faith in God. Her spiritual journey after Smith Grove took her to Hopewell Baptist Church in Upatoi, Georgia. Following her beloved husband's death in 1980, she joined the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church where she served diligently as a Sunday School Teacher, member of the Choir No. 2 and the Deacons' Wives.

She is survived by her children, Deloris, Jake, Ibrahim, Melvin, and Gwendolyn; two sisters; Deborah and Ange; her 21 grandchildren and 37 great-grandchildren; and many other family members and friends.

George Washington Carver once said that, "How far you go in life depends of your being

• 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.

tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong because someday in your life you will have been all of these." Likewise, Mrs. Porter did so well in her life because she never forgot where she came from and always she treated people with dignity and respect. She used her God given talents to help babies enter the world and to help all people from all walks of life. The scripture tells us that the race of life "isn't given to the swift nor to the strong, but to those that endure until the end." Mrs. Porter ran the race of her life with dignity and respect and she has now claimed her greatest reward.

On a personal note, Mrs. Porter and the Porter family have been cherished friends to my wife, Vivian, and me, and we have been truly blessed by their friendship.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, along with the almost 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District, in extending our deepest condolences to Mrs. Porter's family, friends, and the Columbus, Georgia community during this difficult time. We pray that they will be comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

OATH OF CITIZENSHIP ON JUNE 8,
2018

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, It is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate thirty individuals who will take their oaths of citizenship on June 8, 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 June 8, 2018, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, will take their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Hua Lin, Elvira Garcilazo, Mayra Medina Alvarado, Jaime Francisco Osorio Perdomo, Rosaelin Garcilazo Mendoza, Gladys Wanjiru Muchemi, Jocelyn Cappello, Hector Castellanos, Marijana Celakoski, Sonia Chavez, Daniel Garcia, Paulina Gonzalez, Marilynn Rose Hoang, Pablo Lara, Sandip Singh Lidhar, Guillermo Artemio Lopez, Jose Martinez, Bertha Medina, Benson Kingori Muchemi, Daniel Bapfutwabo, Devote Niyondiko, Francis Kwarteng Oduro, Shirley Oduro-Nkansah, Maria E. Palmerin, Ly Pham, Aisha Usman Qadeer, Engracia Rangel, Mina Franklin Roosevelt, Lizzy Salazar Strantz, and Janet A. Vazquez.

Although each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupa-

tion, 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 June 8, 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 ALLEN GRAFFAM
FOR HIS 43 YEARS OF SERVICE
IN MAINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize an outstanding educator from my District who has spent the past 43 years working as a band director in Maine's public schools.

Allen C. Graffam graduated from the University of Maine in 1975 and soon after, took a job at Brunswick High School. After eight years of service in Brunswick, Allen became band director at Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham, Maine. Since becoming band director in 1983, Allen has been an inspiration to his students and is greatly admired for his ability to listen, to advise, and to teach. Allen's leadership and dedication to educating in the classroom has prepared countless students to become important leaders in their communities.

In addition to his role as band director, Allen has also served as the Coach of the Girls' Softball team at Mt. Ararat High School. Allen's ability to fill multiple roles perfectly exemplifies his life long commitment to Maine students.

This June, Allen is retiring after 43 years of incredible service in Maine's public schools. Allen's nearly half a century as a band director and leader in our schools makes me very proud to represent him and the State of Maine in Congress. I wish Allen and his family the best in his retirement, and I wholeheartedly thank him for his many years as an educator in Maine's schools.

YADIRA TISCARENO ESCALERA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Yadira Tiscareno Escalera for receiving the Arvada

Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Yadira Tiscareno Escalera is a student at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Yadira Tiscareno Escalera is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Yadira Tiscareno Escalera for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LATE
JAMES REDDINGTON, LANCE
CORPORAL UNITED STATES MA-
RINE CORPS

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late James Reddington, Lance Corporal USMC. A medal presentation at Lackawanna County Courthouse and memorial service at Cathedral Cemetery was held in his honor conducted by Lieutenant General Ron Christmas, Colonel Terry Ebbert, the U.S. Marine Corps Color Guard, and the Greater Scranton Black Diamonds Pipe Band over Memorial Day Weekend 2018.

Jimmy was a Lance Corporal with Echo Company 2nd Battalion 5th Marines and served his country during the Vietnam War. On March 23, 1967, nineteen year old Lance Corporal Reddington charged an enemy position to draw fire away from the rescue and recovery from the field of a wounded fellow Marine. He was fatally wounded during this exchange.

Because of his actions, Jimmy was posthumously awarded two Purple Hearts. He also received ten additional medals and awards for his service. However, because his family was deceased, these medals had gone unclaimed for fifty-one years. Lance Corporal Reddington's medals will be presented to the Marine Corps League, N.E. Detachment, where they will be held in repose and displayed.

It is a solemn honor to recognize the memory of Lance Corporal James Reddington, USMC. I am grateful to him for his service in defense of his country and his willingness to sacrifice his life so a fellow Marine might live. We shall never forget his selfless actions that day and we are thankful for his service and the service of all who served in Vietnam. May he rest in peace.

HONORING ROBERT KILLIP

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Killip, a leader and integral part

of the Conservative Synagogue Adath Israel of Riverdale (CSAIR) community.

A father of three, Robert often experiences CSAIR through the eyes of his children. That is why it felt natural for him to accept the challenge of leading the Young Family Children's Program. For two years he planned weekly Shabbat and annual High Holiday services for CSAIR's large and owing under five set and their families. Robert's leadership role in YFCP helped offer parents a meaningful way to connect with one another, while their children participated in spirited services filled with prayer, song, stories and dancing. Through Robert's commitment to the success of YFCP, so many young CSAIR families have felt welcome in shul and integral members of our synagogue community.

Robert grew up in Atlanta, where he and his family attended a Reform synagogue. He attended Jewish day school in Atlanta where he met his future wife, Avi, in high school. Fast forward to five years ago when, after graduating with a JD and an MBA from Boston University, Robert settled in Riverdale with now Rabbi Avi Killip and their 6-month-old. Looking for an observant and committed egalitarian community, the young family found a home at CSAIR. Here they have celebrated two more life cycle events—one naming and one bris—with our congregation. Now all three children, Judah, Dasi, and Gabe, call CSAIR “our shul.” The Killip family has indeed become part of the CSAIR family and Robert's leadership role in YFCP has helped make the shul even more welcoming to young children and their parents.

This year, CSAIR is celebrating Robert at their annual Gala Celebration as one of their distinguished honorees. They have chosen a terrific individual to honor. I would like to send my personal congratulations to Robert on the occasion, and thank him for all his hard work on behalf of the community.

RALPH O. FRANG

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Private First Class Ralph O. Frang, United States Army, for his service to our country.

Private First Class Frang served in the United States Army from 1943 to 1945, serving in Normandy, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe during World War II. Private First Class Frang's military awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 4 bronze battle stars and the Bronze Service Arrowhead, and the Good Conduct Medal.

Private First Class Frang started his military career training with the 10th Mountain Division in Colorado before transferring to the 101st Airborne Division as a paratrooper where he participated in the D-Day landing at Normandy Beach on June 6, 1944.

Private First Class Frang's courageous service has charted the path for future generations of men and women to serve in the military. I extend my deepest appreciation to Private

Frang for his dedication, integrity and outstanding service to the United States of America.

CONGRATULATING THOMAS J. MIDDLETON

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Thomas J. Middleton on his retirement from the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) after 27 years of service. Since June of 1991, Mr. Middleton has held INL positions of increasing responsibility: physical security officer, physical security manager, safeguards and personnel security manager, protective force manager, Security and Emergency Services Division director, Facilities and Site Services deputy director and Laboratory Protection director.

A graduate of Virginia Tech, Mr. Middleton received a Bachelor of Arts in liberal arts and science and is a martial artist with a third-degree black belt in Taekwondo. Prior to working at INL, he served six years as a special agent with the U.S. State Department Bureau of Diplomatic Security. Before moving to Idaho, he was the assistant regional security officer for the American Embassy in Guatemala.

Mr. Middleton completed his service to the Laboratory as the Director of Laboratory Protection, to which he had oversight of programs that secure critical national research facilities, and the development and deployment of applied nuclear science research assets. He also managed 550-plus employees and a \$110 million annual budget.

Mr. Middleton's greatest joys are spending time in Idaho's great outdoors and with family. One of his greatest accomplishments was climbing the Grand Teton when he turned 50 years old.

Mr. Middleton exemplifies qualities in knowledge and skills that have been essential to keeping the nation and INL strong and secure, and I thank him for his service.

HONORING AND REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF RONALD L. REHNER, SR.

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Ronald L. Rehner, Sr. Ronald Rehner was a family man and known to many as a school teacher, who taught in the New York communities of Rochester and Elmira, in Cincinnati, Ohio, and even as far away as Moshi, Tanzania, teaching geography at Mawenzi Secondary School. Ever concerned with current affairs, Ron would bring real world issues to the classroom to give context to his lessons. Beyond his work in the classroom, during his time in Tanzania, Ron was an active member of the United States Peace Corps. After applying his gifts abroad, Ron returned to the United States to teach history at Thomas Edison High School in Elmira, New York.

After retiring from being a school teacher, Ron worked at Chemung County RSVP and in the garden department at Chase Pitkin. During his free time Ron enjoyed going camping, hiking, cooking, and gardening.

Ron's interest in politics was put to good use as the legislative chair of AARP Chapter 276. Ron and his entourage of red shirted colleagues were familiar faces in my office and were frequent attendees at my town hall meetings. Ron was an effective communicator and a tireless advocate. He was never shy about standing up for what he felt was right.

When Ron was not working, he would volunteer his time to give back and improve the community. Ron volunteered with many organizations in his community. Ron shared his time with Senior Notebook, the Department of Aging Advocacy, Age Friendly Coalition, Creating Healthy Schools and Communities, Poverty Coalition, Food Bank of the Southern Tier, Health Priorities Squared, and First Presbyterian Church. No matter where he went or what he was doing he always had a smile to give and welcomed all.

Throughout his life, Ron earned many accolades for his hard work and dedication to his community. Ron was recognized with the Mildred Parfitt Award, the Jefferson Award, and named the Chemung County Department of Aging and Long Term Care's Distinguished Volunteer of the Year. He was also nominated for the coveted AARP Andrus Award.

Ron will be missed by the many communities and countless individuals he made an impact on over a lifetime of good will and service to his fellow man. I will certainly miss his presence.

I ask that this legislative body join me to remember the life of Ronald L. Rehner, Sr.

WARREN SPAULDING

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Colonel Warren A. Spaulding, United States Army, Retired, for his service to our country.

Colonel Spaulding graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering in 1952. Upon his commissioning as a Second Lieutenant, he served in the Air Defense Artillery branch, and later transferred to the Field Artillery branch of the United States Army. Colonel Spaulding served multiple tours of duty in both the continental U.S. and international tours in Japan, Korea, the Republic of Vietnam and Germany.

Colonel Spaulding's dedication to military education led him to serve as a professor of military science at the University of Colorado—Boulder, in the “Golden Buffalo Battalion” from 1973 to 1975. Colonel Spaulding was recently inducted into the University of Colorado's Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) Golden Buffalo Battalion Hall of Fame for his untiring efforts as a military educator. Following his military retirement, Colonel Spaulding continued his work in education at the Colorado School of Mines—working to keep the ROTC detachment on the Colorado School of Mines campus.

Colonel Spaulding's courageous service has charted the path for future generations of men and women to serve in the military. I extend my deepest appreciation to Colonel Spaulding for his dedication, integrity and outstanding service to the United States of America.

**CELEBRATING THE WORK AND
LEGACY OF COLONEL RON PERRY**

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the extraordinary work and legacy of Colonel Ron Perry, USA, Retired. This Texas native's life has been one of continual service and he has made lasting impacts on our brave warriors at Fort Hood and across the Army.

After receiving his commission in the Infantry in December 1974, COL Perry served his beloved nation and Army at installations around the world. His nearly three decades of honorable service saw him excel at some of the most challenging duties anyone in the military could shoulder. COL Perry's work didn't go unnoticed as he received numerous awards and decorations saluting his efforts.

Following a brief stint in the private sector, COL Perry returned to the Army to serve as the civilian Deputy to the Commanding General, III Corps and Fort Hood. In this critical role, COL Perry called on his decades of expertise to support The Great Place as it continues to be one of the world's premiere military installations. His institutional knowledge and efforts toward championing the base, the thousands stationed there, and the community that supports them cannot be adequately quantified, nor equaled.

COL Perry's commitment to investing his gifts, talents, and abilities to ensuring the Army remains the world's greatest military force is a deeply held creed that speaks to the generosity and activism of a true and devoted public servant. As he begins the next phase of his life, I salute his decades of work and proudly join his colleagues, friends, and family in wishing him nothing but success in the future.

TRIBUTE TO ALYSSA JOHNSON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Alyssa Johnson of Mount Ayr High School. Alyssa was recently honored for outstanding academic achievement at the Sixteenth Annual Governor's Scholar Recognition on April 29, 2018.

This statewide program is sponsored by the Iowa Governor's Office, the Iowa High School Athletic Association, and the Iowa Farm Bureau. Each Iowa high school was invited to select a senior with the highest academic ranking. Not only are they academically gifted, but the selected students are often the youth who are successful in extra-curricular activities and community endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Alyssa in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to reach her goals. I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Alyssa on receiving this esteemed designation, and wishing her the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

**KATY OFFICERS RECOGNIZED FOR
THEIR LIFE SAVING ACTIONS**

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officers Dustin Garcia and Matthew Newport of Katy, TX for receiving recognition for their efforts to go "Above & Beyond."

On April 10th, Matthew and Dustin responded to a major car accident at Avenue D and 10th Street in Katy and then proceeded to perform CPR on a female injured until firefighters could arrive on scene. The officers are credited with saving the young woman's life and are true heroes to their community. On May 14th, Katy Mayor Chuck Brawner presented the officers with "Above & Beyond" recognition for their actions. Matthew has worked 2 years for the Katy Police Department. He previously served as an officer in Sugar Land and Eagle Lake. Dustin has been an officer in the Katy area for over 2½ years and holds no prior police experience. These two men are a true inspiration to their community and serve as an example to all of us.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Dustin and Matthew for earning this well-deserved award. I thank them for their service to our community.

**RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE REPUBLIC DAY OF
AZERBAIJAN**

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Republic Day of Azerbaijan, and to extend my best wishes to all Azerbaijanis. May 28th marks the founding of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan, when the people of Azerbaijan first gained their independence from the Russian Empire in 1918. Although Azerbaijan's independence was ended by Soviet forces in 1920, it is noteworthy that the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan was the world's first secular parliamentary democratic republic in a predominantly Muslim nation—earning diplomatic recognition from the United States during the administration of President Woodrow Wilson. We also recall that the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan granted universal suffrage to its citizens in 1918, making it the first Muslim country to give women the right to vote.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan restored its independence on Octo-

ber 18, 1991, when its Parliament adopted the Constitution Act on the Restoration of the State of Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan has emerged as a key player for enhancing global energy security. The completion of the Southern Gas Corridor—which will run from the Caspian Sea through Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey, Greece, and Albania into Italy—will increase the energy security of key American allies by increasing the amount of natural gas from the Caspian Sea to European markets.

Azerbaijan also provides roughly 40 percent of Israel's oil consumption and enjoys friendly ties with Israel beyond oil sales. Jews have resided in Azerbaijan for 2,500 years without persecution and today, the Jewish community in Azerbaijan numbers over 12,000. Azerbaijan is also home to Christian communities and has been praised for its religious tolerance by the European Parliament.

Azerbaijan is a key global security partner for the United States. As an active member of NATO's Partnership for Peace program, Azerbaijan cooperates with the United States in countering terrorism, nuclear proliferation, and narcotics trafficking. Azerbaijani troops serve shoulder to shoulder with U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan, as they previously did in Kosovo and Iraq. In support of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan has extended important over-flight clearances for U.S. and NATO flights as well as regularly providing landing and refueling operations at its airports for U.S. and NATO forces.

As co-chair of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I congratulate the people of Azerbaijan on the centennial of their Republic Day. May the partnership between the United States and Azerbaijan progress and continue to benefit both of our nations.

**HONORING HARPER CHAPEL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FOR THEIR 150TH ANNIVERSARY**

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Harper Chapel United Methodist Church in Osage Beach, Missouri. On Sunday, September 23, 2018, the congregation will be celebrating the church's 150th Anniversary. This historical accomplishment is even more impressive when considering Missouri was not quite 50 years a state when Harper Chapel UMC was established near the Grand Glaize and Osage Rivers.

In 1868, Mr. Thomas Ezard and Mr. Thomas Harper began a Methodist class that would set the groundwork for Harper Chapel UMC. During the years this class met in various homes and the local log school house. The Southern Methodist Bishop appointed the Circuit Riders who led the class. Then in 1880, the community welcomed their first "regular preacher", Tom Rodgers. A new era was ushered in on April 20, 1911 when Asa and Ethel Farmer and E.P. Wade generously donated one acre of land in trust to the Methodist Episcopal Church. This land is the present site of Harper Chapel UMC.

On January 12, 1912, the original church building was dedicated and to this day it is still used for weddings and other activities. Thanks to the handiwork of Charles Harper and Carl Knight, the original pulpit is still used in the original church. 87 years after the Methodist class started meeting, under the leadership of Reverend M.A. Thomas, a building program was started to build a parsonage, repair the current sanctuary, and begin plans for a new sanctuary. Due to the success of the building program on October 28, 1956 the new parsonage was dedicated, and on Easter Sunday, April 8, 1963 the new sanctuary was dedicated.

The positive impact on the parishioners and surrounding community has been steadfast throughout the years. Vacation Bible School began in 1945 and continues to improve the lives of children and families in the area to this day. The vision of Harper Chapel UMC to—"Intentionally Connect People with Christ and Each Other"—is an inspiration and will be a guiding light for future generations.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Harper Chapel United Methodist Church on their 150th Anniversary. This milestone is a great testament to the commitment this church has shown to the Lord, their parishioners, and the entire community.

ATASCOCITA HIGH SCHOOL
SOFTBALL—STATE BOUND 2018

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this past Friday, the girls from Atascocita High School Softball team earned a trip to State by beating top ranked Katy. They claimed the Region III 6A Championship and are headed to State for the second time in three years. Congratulations. It is an honor to recognize a talented group of ladies on the field and off the field. The girls are set to play this Friday, in Austin, at McCombs Field against Plano.

Atascocita High School softball team has six seniors on their team. Last November, three of them signed college scholarships to play at the next level: Lauren Bazan, Harding University; Kyla Snow, Texas Southern University; and, Lillie Grotenhuis, San Jacinto College. The name Grotenhuis is well known in my community. In 2014, Atascocita High School Head Softball coach, Jimbo Grotenhuis, unexpectedly passed away from a heart attack. One of his daughters, Lillie, is a talented senior on the team. She never got to play for her father at the high school level, but she has his passion and drive for the game.

Jimbo was a legend in the softball community, so much, that Humble ISD renamed the Atascocita High School softball field in his memory. Written in large black letters, on a red brick wall, behind home plate, it says "Welcome to James 'Jimbo' Grotenhuis Field". The lessons Jimbo taught in the short time he coached at Atascocita High School were invaluable. It is said that the measure of a man is the influence that he has on the lives of others. I have no doubt, that the Atascocita High School Softball team will carry his spirit of hard work and dedication with them to State.

For the last four years, AHS Head Coach Ashley Boyd has stepped up to the plate and filled Jimbo's cleats. Her team's record is impressive. In an interview earlier this year, Coach Boyd said, "These players are proud of where they come from. They're proud of this community, and they're happy to get to represent them. They've worked their tails off." Coach Boyd's passion along with Assistant Alyssa Romero's dedication will guide the Lady Eagles not only at State but far beyond game time. The leadership of a coach not only improves an athlete's performance but works to instill values of hard work and discipline.

So this weekend, grab the family, put on your red, white and blue, and head to Austin to cheer on our Lady Eagles.

Let's play ball.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING BRENT STACEY

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brent Stacey on his retirement from Idaho National Laboratory, and to thank him for his service to our nation.

As Associate Laboratory Director for National and Homeland Security at INL, and as a strategic advisor, Brent provided valuable leadership in addressing the cybersecurity challenges facing the nation's critical infrastructure.

In this capacity, Brent addressed House and Senate subcommittees on several occasions, and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence regarding efforts to mitigate cyberthreats to our nation. Brent played an important role in INL's campus infrastructure expansion, and was instrumental in bringing the first high-performance computer to the laboratory.

Brent advanced INL's partnerships with academia and industry and was the first president and CEO of the Idaho Regional Optical Network, a nonprofit organization that advances science, research, education, health care and state government through high-speed bandwidth.

I offer my best wishes to Brent and his family, and gratitude for his three decades of service.

HONORING MICHAEL K. CLARKE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael K. Clarke upon his retirement as the Executive Director of the Buffalo, New York office of LISC (Local Initiatives Support Corporation).

The LISC strategy to "invest in businesses, housing and other community infrastructure to catalyze economic, health, safety and educational mobility for individuals and communities," has been brought to life under Mike Clarke's two decades of visionary leadership. This nonprofit agency, promoting community

development in collaboration with public and private partners, has encompassed housing, commercial and recreational facility development.

Despite Buffalo being among the smallest of the many cities LISC is involved, Mike's depth of experience in neighborhood redevelopment, public housing and community and commercial financing projects boosted our city's profile in the national organization. Since opening their doors in 1998, LISC has invested \$131 million in those neighborhoods, further leveraging an additional \$254 million in investment. Our work has resulted in the creation of 2,574 units of affordable housing, 355,000 square feet of commercial space, and the renovation of 9 recreational fields for youth.

Mike and LISC became synonymous twenty years ago at a time when Buffalo needed their assistance most as we faced the challenges of old, vacant housing stock, a smaller base of philanthropic sources and reductions in government support. Far from standing outside the fire, Mike went all in bringing public, private and non-profit partners to the table to research, learn, listen and get to work to implement targeted solutions one house, one street, one neighborhood at a time. Today, while problems remain, our ability and resolve to address them as One City has never been stronger.

Mike Clarke's investment in the citizen-led planning movement building on our great architectural, civic and cultural assets, the re-emergence of downtown and adjacent neighborhoods yielded real action and results that have contributed greatly to Buffalo's renaissance.

Mike's ability to harness progressive strategies using all financial resources available led to the first federal New Market Tax Credit investment that preserved the historic Asbury Delaware Church. Now, known as Babeville, this unique performing arts center founded by Ani DiFranco and Scot Fisher is a center for music, art, and community projects in Buffalo, New York.

Responsible for implementing HUD's Section IV grant program, LISC's capacity building program has had a tremendous impact on driving community development activity here in Buffalo. Its collaboration with HELP USA on the HELP Buffalo II affordable housing project for families with minimal incomes, and permanent supportive housing for formerly homeless veterans is spurring new energy in the Broadway-Fillmore neighborhood. Mike's active involvement in bringing the National Vacant Properties Campaign to Buffalo and intense focus on neighborhood business district activities, including Jefferson and Elmwood Avenues laid the foundation for enhanced urban commercial corridors.

Most recently, an investment of \$5 million from LISC and in a dynamic public-private partnership led by Herbert Bellamy, Jr, the son of a legendary leader on the east side of Buffalo, a closed warehouse-turned-community center is now home to 30 families with community space and a children's playground. Prior to joining LISC Mr. Clarke was a Mortgage Officer for the Community Preservation Corporation (CPC) a not-for-profit real estate lender, which specializes in financing affordable housing for low and moderate-income households. For five years he served as the Executive Director at the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority (BMHA) which owned and

operated over 5,000 low-income rental apartments in 27 developments in the City of Buffalo. He was a Capital Programs Manager for the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR), and the Executive Director of Kensington-Bailey Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. His extensive public service has extended to volunteer leadership on the following boards: Rental Assistance Corporation of Buffalo; Friends of the School of Architecture and Planning at SUNY at Buffalo; Erie County Commission on Homelessness; Bailey-Amherst District Management Association and the Downtown Neighborhood Development Corporation.

To all who know him or know of him, worked with him or at times, worked against him, there is one thing we can all agree on, Mike put his community first. His hard-won reputation as a community organizer, neighborhood advocate, housing activist and all-around agitator has earned him our respect and gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, as family, friends and colleagues join in "Larkinville" to acknowledge his many accomplishments on June 4, I add my appreciation for Michael K. Clarke's friendship, leadership and legacy of making a real difference in the lives of those who live in and love the City of Buffalo.

LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL LADY PANTHERS—2018 STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in Liberty High School history, the Lady Panthers Softball team is the Texas UIL State Class 4A Softball Champions. On Saturday afternoon, they defeated the Vernon Lady Lions in Austin with a score of 3–1. Congratulations to the Liberty High School Softball Team and the City of Liberty.

Liberty's rich history of rugged Texas pioneers who settled near the Trinity River spans more than 180 years. Today, Liberty continues to live up to its rich legacy and community spirit. Liberty is home to Liberty Independent School District which provides outstanding educational opportunities for students. But Liberty was missing one thing, a team State Champion. Jerry Michalsky, sports editor with local newspaper The Vindicator, has been a sports writer for over 24 years and never been able to cover a State Champion. His dream came true this past weekend.

Liberty County radio station KSHN 99.9 FM streamed the game live from Austin. The one and only, passionate, Bill Buchanan gave a play by play for fans who were unable to make the trek to Austin. My friend and past Liberty Church of Christ preacher, Jonathan Sanford (now announcer for the San Antonio Spurs), was the announcer at McCombs Field. He gave the play by play live on Saturday. Mary Anne Campbell, President of the Liberty Dayton Area Chamber, kept the fans back at home up to date with her Facebook postings. Folks in Liberty rallied behind a young team of girls who made championship history one game at a time.

For the last 13 years, Liberty High School Head Coach Karen Slack has dreamed of a

State championship team. She genuinely cares for her players and wanted to see Liberty relevant when it came to softball. Her team's record is impressive. In an interview earlier this week, Coach Slack said, "These girls have no fear in them at all and this stage never even bothered them." Coach Slack's passion along with Assistant Joe Slack and Katherine McAdams will continue to guide the Lady Panthers far beyond a State title. The leadership of a coach not only improves an athlete's performance but works to instill values of hard work and discipline. The community is proud of Coach Slack for all her accomplishments as a coach and a leader.

Congrats to Liberty High School's State Championship team: Jo McGinnis, Mikaelah Burkland, Bailey Webb, Kennedy Evans, Kamryn Turner, Abbie Knepper, Molly Barnette, Jaylen Prichard, Karli Beam, Baylee Chandler, Sarah Lopez, Kara Cannon, Harley Davis, Abby Phillips, and Kaci West.

Saturday evening, hundreds of fans decked out in black and gold, waving flags and noise makers, welcomed the Lady Panthers home. The Lady Panthers were escorted to the Liberty County line from Austin by the Liberty County Sheriff's Office. Dayton Police Department picked up the team at the Dayton City limits then Liberty Police Department picked them up at the Dayton-Liberty City limits. They were escorted all the way to the pavilion behind City Hall in downtown Liberty. The outpouring of support from the City of Liberty and surrounding communities was in true fashion of Panther Pride.

Way to go Panthers.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF MR. SANDY CROFT

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Mr. Sandy Croft after 34 years of dedicated service to the Pleasant Ridge School District and the community of Nevada County.

Born in Pasadena, California in 1958, Sandy spent time in Santa Barbara, and Newport Beach, before eventually settling down in Grass Valley in 1969. He started school in the Pleasant Ridge School District in third grade—the same school district he will retire from as a teacher this year. Graduating from Nevada Union High School in 1977, he then attended Westmont College. Less than a year later, tragedy struck his family when his older brother passed away. He moved back home to be with his mother shortly afterwards. Not willing to give up on school, Sandy continued his education closer to home at Sierra College. Soon after, he received his secondary teaching credential in Social Science and English at Sacramento State. He went on to receive credentials in both Physical Education and Industrial Arts.

Sandy is not only a successful, dedicated, and driven individual, but he's also an avid outdoorsman. Growing up in rural Grass Valley, he'd often explore the old gold mines and dig for remnants of Native American artifacts. In high school, Sandy was a hunter, a fisher-

man, and a star tennis player—which he continues to play recreationally to this day.

In 1979, Sandy married his high school sweetheart, Lynn Baker, and they will be celebrating 38 years of Marriage on June 9th. Sandy and Lynn together have three children—Lindsey, Benjamin, and Hayley—as well as two grandchildren.

Of everything Sandy has accomplished, his greatest love was to teach in the same school district he attended as a child and to share his love for history by taking students on trips to Washington D.C. and New York City every year.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Sandy Croft for his commitment and service to the youth and community of Nevada County.

CONGRATULATING MARSHA SMITH FOR RECEIVING THE LIFETIME HUMANITARIAN AWARD AT THE 2018 GOVERNOR'S SERVICE AWARDS

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to congratulate Marsha J. Smith for receiving the Lifetime Humanitarian Award at the 2018 Governor's Service Awards. Through her exceptional leadership and steadfast devotion to her community, Sue has become an indispensable part of Michigan's First District.

The Lifetime Humanitarian Award is given annually by the Michigan Community Service Commission to individuals who demonstrate a "lifelong commitment to community involvement and volunteer service." They have shown a "tremendous passion for helping others" and are well-known for their exceptional impact in their community and state. Few are as deserving of this honor as Marsha Smith. In her 24 years as the executive director of Rotary Charities of Traverse City, Marsha's leadership has helped the organization provide more than \$58 million worth of grants and transform Northern Michigan.

Marsha was also instrumental in forming the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, which has led the acquisition of over 40,000 acres of land and 124 miles of coastline for environmental protection. Before her work with Rotary Charities, Marsha was involved in the founding of the Women's Resource Center in Traverse City, which offers support for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Marsha's tireless devotion to public service has touched the lives of countless members of her community, and the impact of her work in her community cannot be overstated.

Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Marsha Smith for her decades of service to Northern Michigan and congratulate her once again for receiving the Lifetime Humanitarian Award. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a dedicated individual. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Marsha all the best in her future endeavors.

ROLLING THUNDER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, each Memorial Day, families all over the nation plan their weekend barbecues and look forward to enjoying a long weekend. But despite the festivities, many of these folks don't remember why we have the day off of work, and why we celebrate this national holiday.

But for the members of Rolling Thunder, in Houston, Texas, there is no question. Each year, they join together to help remind Americans across the nation of just why it is that we celebrate Memorial Day.

Rolling Thunder is a group of patriots who have made it their mission to honor our military heroes by bringing awareness through a motorcycle demonstration in Washington, D.C. While many members are veterans, not all are; some are just patriotic Americans who wish to do their part. They unite together to demand accountability for our POWs and MIAs to be identified and brought home.

In 1987, a group of Vietnam Veterans gathered together to discuss the thousands of reported sightings of Americans still living in captivity. They were disturbed by the neglect from our government. So, they decided to do something to force the government and media to acknowledge the horrific abandonment of our men and women overseas. After much brainstorming, the veterans came up with a unique idea. They began reaching out to family, friends, fellow veterans, and advocates to assemble a group of patriots willing to stand up for our soldiers.

In 1988, on Memorial Day, 2,500 men and women rode to our Nation's Capital on their motorcycles. Decked out in leather, wearing shades and bandanas, waving Old Glory, and riding 500 plus pounds of steel, they were a terrifying but inspiring bunch. The sound of over a thousand bikes riding in unison reminded many of the bombing campaign against North Vietnam dubbed Operation Rolling Thunder. Very powerful. Since then, that small group of veterans became known as Rolling Thunder. They are right thinking Americans with big hearts.

The number of riders has increased every year, and now nearly 900,000 members belong to the Rolling Thunder. There are currently 90 chapters throughout 32 states. Two of those chapters are back home in my great city—Houston, Texas. It's hard to find a more patriotic state than Texas. With 8 out of 10 Texans enlisting to serve our nation, it's not a surprise that Texans are joining the "Ride for Freedom" this year.

This year, like every year, on Memorial Day, Rolling Thunder chapters join together and ride to our Nation's Capital. These demonstrations are known as the "Ride for Freedom". This year, they celebrated the 31st Ride for Freedom. The ride begins at the Pentagon on Memorial Day. At noon the riders, all at once, start their motorcycles and begin the ride to The Wall to show their continued support for our missing and fallen soldiers. They pay their respects.

Although the group may have started to bring attention to our POWs/MIAs from Vietnam, they want to make sure all soldiers are

remembered. Today, the organization has branched out to include all wars and recognize that we still have an accumulated estimate of 86,788 unaccounted United States veterans.

Mr. Speaker, Rolling Thunder rides for our soldiers whose lives were given in pursuit of a great cause, American Freedom. I am proud to recognize these angels on bikes with hearts bigger than Texas. They make a difference and represent all that is right and good in America.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO SHEYANN WEBB
CHRISTBURG

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sheyann Webb Christburg, a leader in the American Voting Rights Movement. A trailblazer in every sense of the word, Sheyann was only eight years old when she dared to march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma on Bloody Sunday. She courageously participated in the March from Selma to Montgomery which led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Today, we pay tribute to Sheyann as one of the youngest foot soldiers for justice.

Sheyann was born in Selma, Alabama, in 1956 to parents John and Betty Webb as one of eight children. Growing up in public housing, she attended a segregated public school. As Sheyann walked to her third grade class one morning in January 1965, she stumbled across a meeting at Brown Chapel AME Church. There, she saw an uncommon sight for Alabama in the 1960s—both black and white people congregated together outside of the church. Noticing how powerful the moment was and never one to shy away, a curious Sheyann stepped inside to find Dr. Martin Luther King's aide Hosea Williams speaking to the crowd. Williams' words instantly caught her attention: "If you can't vote, then you're not free, and if you ain't free, children, then you're a slave".

Sheyann's participation in the mass meetings were not free from criticism. Upon returning to school, she was reprimanded for being late and attending potentially dangerous meetings. The Birmingham Church bombing had just taken place a few years prior, and her parents were worried that she would be a target for violence. Being involved in the Voting Rights Movement was dangerous, as it could jeopardize her parents' jobs or get them kicked out of public housing. But that did not stop her, Sheyann was determined to blaze her own trail towards freedom.

For her 9th birthday, Sheyann asked her parents to register to vote and stood in line with them at the local Dallas County courthouse for an entire day before they were registered. Sheyann was not deterred by her teachers either. Despite their warnings, she continued to skip class becoming the only child to regularly attend the mass meetings at Brown Chapel.

Sheyann was often accompanied to the after-school meetings by her schoolmate friend Rachel West. The two girls became particularly close with Dr. King himself. "What do

you want?", he would often ask the girls. "Freedom!" They would yell back, going back and forth louder and louder until they would all collapse with laughter. "Do you young ladies have your marching shoes on?", he would ask them. Sheyann always had her marching shoes on.

On March 7, 1965, Sheyann marched with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) across the Edmund Pettus Bridge on what later became known as Bloody Sunday. She was beaten with billy clubs and sprayed with tear gas. Despite being terrified by the violence that erupted, she was determined to continue to march. Sheyann kept attending mass meetings at Brown Chapel AME Church and marched again with SCLC towards Montgomery on March 21, 1965. Her enthusiasm was arguably too much even for Dr. King, who told her she did not have to march all the way to Montgomery and had her picked up by a van and driven back to Selma.

Sheyann's activism continued long after the marches. In junior high school, she became one of the first black students to integrate into an all-white school in Selma. She was pushed down stairs, called bad names, and was suspended from school—all while receiving no support from the administration. But Sheyann remained unbought and unbossed in her activism throughout her life, graduating from Tuskegee Institute in 1979.

Today, Sheyann continues her outreach and civic engagement through her company, KEEP Productions Youth Development Mentoring and Modeling Program, where she works with youth ages two to eighteen to help them blaze their own trails to success. Because Sheyann knows firsthand how impactful childhood opportunities can be, her program assists youth in helping them build self-esteem, confidence, and find purpose in their lives. In addition, she also works with youth groups across the State of Alabama to organize development workshops and training programs that help young people obtain the skills they need to succeed.

Sheyann remains vocal about her experiences in the Voting Rights Movement, writing the book 'Selma, Lord, Selma' which was eventually turned into a movie. She speaks to numerous religious, community, and educational institutions throughout the world and regularly appears on national talk shows.

On a personal note, I am privileged to have known Sheyann Webb Christburg all my life as a native daughter of Selma and my former babysitter. Sheyann has made such an incredible imprint on my life as a mentor, confidante and friend. To know Sheyann, is to be inspired by Sheyann. Her courage in the face of adversity, her moral compass on issues of social justice and her heart of gold are her trademark and standard bearers. I know that it is because of her influence on my life that I am Alabama's first Black Congresswoman. To say thank you doesn't seem an adequate reflection of my sincere gratitude.

On behalf of the 7th Congressional District, the State of Alabama and this nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the tremendous accomplishments and extraordinary contributions of Sheyann Webb Christburg—an American icon of the Voting Rights Movement. We pay tribute to her bravery as a trailblazer and honor her continued efforts to motivate and uplift up children across the State of Alabama and this nation.

RECOGNITION OF THE NORTHERN
CALIFORNIA POWER AGENCY'S
50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to commend the Northern California Power Agency, also known as NCPA, on its 50th anniversary. NCPA was established in 1968 by a consortium of locally owned electric utilities to make joint investments in energy resources that would ensure an affordable, reliable, and clean supply of electricity for customers in its member communities. By banding together, these local consumer-owned utilities, including several in my District, achieved economies of scale necessary to build generation and collectively face the challenges of an evolving electric utility industry.

The Agency's mission is to provide members with reliable, efficient, and cost-effective wholesale power, energy-related services, and advocacy on behalf of public power consumers through joint action. I can tell you, through my decades of dealing with NCPA during my tenure in Congress as well as the California legislature, that the Agency meets that mission with flying colors.

NCPA has been a pioneer in implementing innovative technologies that benefit the environment, as highlighted through its construction of both the world's first integrated wastewater geothermal system, which greatly prolongs the life of invaluable geothermal renewable resources, and the nation's first "fast start" combined-cycle natural gas turbines. The Agency also owns and operates nearly 260 megawatts of in-state, hydropower resources that generate carbon-free electricity for Californians while also providing outdoor recreation benefits. NCPA also regularly represents its members' interests in issues related to the Central Valley Project.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending and congratulating NCPA on 50 years of invaluable service to its public power members and their respective communities, the State of California, and the county.

MICHAEL CAMELO, JR.

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael Camelo, Jr. Camelo, a second-generation Cape Coral firefighter, who passed away on May 29th at the age of 37.

Engineer Camelo joined the department in 2006 and served honorably in several critically important positions including paramedic, hazardous materials technician, public safety boat operator, and as member of the Firefighter Survival and Rapid Intervention team.

Mr. Camelo is survived by his two children, Anna, 5, and Michael Camelo III, 3. Both of these young children will forever be a part of the Cape Coral firefighter family that Michael cared about so deeply throughout his entire life.

I would like to offer my deepest condolences to the family of Mr. Michael Camelo, Jr. This is an immense loss to the Cape Coral Fire Department and to the city. Although short in years, Michael's life was filled with great accomplishment and a spirit of service to others—he and his family will be in my prayers, and the prayers of our community.

TRIBUTE TO GRACE McDONALD

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Grace McDonald of Winterset High School. Grace was recently honored for outstanding academic achievement at the Sixteenth Annual Governor's Scholar Recognition on April 29, 2018.

This statewide program is sponsored by the Iowa Governor's Office, the Iowa High School Athletic Association, and the Iowa Farm Bureau. Each Iowa high school was invited to select a senior with the highest academic ranking. Not only are they academically gifted, but the selected students are often the youth who are successful in extra-curricular activities and community endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Grace in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to reach her goals. I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Grace on receiving this esteemed designation, and wishing her the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

RICHMOND STUDENTS EARN GOLD
SEAL AWARDS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Favour Umeakuana and Sonali Puri of Richmond, TX for both earning a Gold Seal at the 2018 State Visual Arts Scholastic Event contest.

The State Visual Arts Scholastic Event, or "VASE", is part of the Texas Art Education Association and awards Gold Seals to its most talented high school artists. It is the highest honor a Texas high school art student can obtain. Favour, a freshman at George Ranch High School, and Sonali, a junior at Foster High School, were two of the 150 students awarded a Gold Seal out of over 35,000 entries. These students have demonstrated incredible talent and are thought of by their classmates to be truly unique. Favour and Sonali are in elite artistic company and deserve the recognition this award displays.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Favour and Sonali for receiving Gold Seal awards. We look forward to seeing their future artwork.

RECOGNIZING FRANK EMOND

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and pay tribute to a local hero and national treasure who has dedicated his life to humble service; service to his country and service to others. Mr. Emond is a Pearl Harbor survivor and recently celebrated his 100th birthday on May 21, 2018.

The history of the life and work of Frank Emond is nothing short of astounding. Francis "Frank" Emond, originally from Rhode Island, played the French horn in his high school band. After graduating and working for three years, he joined the U.S. Navy in 1938, leaving his home in Rhode Island to serve as a musician.

In the summer of 1941, Mr. Emond was assigned to Pearl Harbor, aboard the battle ship USS *Pennsylvania* with Admiral Kimmel, Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet.

On the night of Saturday, December 6, 1941, bands from the *Pennsylvania*, the *California*, and the *Arizona* held a dance band contest on the docks; bragging rights for the winner and great entertainment for the troops and civilians. Mr. Emond's band won the trophy, which they later donated in memory of all 21 *Arizona* band members and 1,100 hands that went down with them.

On the morning of December 7, 1941, "a date", in the words of President Roosevelt, "which will live in infamy", Mr. Emond was playing the French horn with his band mates as they were preparing to play for the morning flag raising.

The ceremony was horrifically interrupted by hundreds of Japanese aircraft dropping bombs and riddling the harbor's battleships with machine gun fire.

The *Pennsylvania* was struck by a bomb, killing 15 and launching men, including Mr. Emond, into a rescue operation. Mr. Emond was trained as a stretcher-bearer and began retrieving the injured and the dead.

Mr. Emond retired from the Navy in 1968 and spent a decade working as a civilian employee at Pensacola Naval Air Station.

To this day, Mr. Emond continues to serve his country and his community. He has been a Red Cross volunteer at Pensacola Naval Hospital for the last 15 years. He works at the hospital's front desk where he frequently brightens the day of many visitors as he greets them and works the switchboard.

Mr. Emond expresses that "time is one of the easiest gifts to give, and is an important one that could change the outcome of somebody's day or maybe even their life." Mr. Emond has certainly given generously of his time and has, no doubt, positively impacted the lives of countless people who are blessed to know and work with him.

Frank Emond's presence and service has been, and will continue to be, an invaluable asset to Northwest Florida. We are proud that he calls our area home and honored that he chooses to spend his time volunteering here.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am humbled and privileged to recognize and honor Frank Emond for his countless contributions and service. I'd like to extend my gratitude to Mr. Emond and his family

for all they've sacrificed for this country and our community. I would also like to wish him a happy 100th birthday and best wishes.

JACK CLAWSON

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jack Clawson, who recently passed away at the age of 90.

Jack was a highly respected resident of our district, not only as the father of my predecessor, Congressman Curt Clawson, but also as a passionate family man and follower of Jesus Christ. He led a remarkable life, having grown up working on his grandfather's farm in Utah and a shipyard in Seattle. As a member of the greatest generation, he joined the U.S. Army and fought for our country during WWII, in Japan between 1945 and 1947 while serving on the staff of General Douglas MacArthur. For three years thereafter, he would serve as a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Denmark. His service to his church would continue throughout his life.

A graduate of Brigham Young University and Harvard Business School in the 1950s, he began a successful business career, serving as the President of Thonet Manufacturing Corporation, DeSoto Furniture and Hill-Rom Company. As with every other aspect of his life, Jack instilled a sense of belonging and caring at each of the companies he led. To his friends and family, however, Jack Clawson was known as a devoted husband, father and grandfather. He will be greatly missed by those who knew him and well-remembered by all.

TRIBUTE TO CLAUDIA SCHNAIBLE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Claudia Schnaible of Council Bluffs, Iowa on her induction into the Thomas Jefferson High School Hall of Fame. Claudia is a 1955 graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School in Council Bluffs.

Claudia has been a lifelong resident of Council Bluffs. She attended the University of Nebraska, but left to join the workforce and start her career. Claudia worked at Phillip's Department Store where she was promoted to clothing line buyer. She owned her own clothing store and ended her career working for Younkers and Von Maur Department Stores. Claudia has always been dedicated to giving back to her community. She has volunteered her time as a youth leader for the Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, served as president of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority, as a member of the Alzheimer's support group at St. Joseph's Villa, Bethany Lutheran Home, and as a member of the Hall of Fame committee.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Claudia on achieving the honor to be a mem-

ber of the Hall of Fame at Thomas Jefferson High School. I am proud to represent her in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in congratulating Claudia and wishing her nothing but continued success.

BISHOP C. GARNETT HENNING, SR., CHAMPION OF THE AME CHURCH AND OF AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened to report the passing of the Right Reverend Coral Garnett Henning, Sr., a giant of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, a devoted defender of the less-fortunate, a tireless advocate for the empowerment of African Americans, and an unfailing friend of Africa.

Elected as the 112th Bishop of the AME Church in 1992, he had already served (and grown) congregations in his native Tennessee, as well as Kansas, Missouri and California, including Ward AME Church in my district. While assigned to Los Angeles from 1972–80, he worked to further economic development, education, the arts and civil rights, and Mayor Tom Bradley appointed him to head the Los Angeles Housing Commission twice. Wherever he went, Bishop Henning devoted his considerable talent, energy and intellect to ecumenical outreach, mentoring, political engagement, and supporting education. He also developed a well-deserved reputation for building and strengthening institutions.

Assigned to Africa in 1992 to serve the 14th Episcopal District—West Africa, he fortified both the church and education all over the region. He built Bethel AME Church in Ghana; in Côte d'Ivoire, he established C. Garnett Henning, Jr. Memorial High School in honor of his late son; and he founded AME University in Monrovia, which today is the second-largest university in Liberia. Assigned to the 19th Episcopal District—South Africa in 1996, he continued to create and build, both programs and structures, including re-opening the nearly century-old Wilberforce Institute (now Wilberforce Community College) which had been closed by South Africa's apartheid government.

Though he would continue to support African projects, he returned to the United States in 2000 when he was assigned to the 8th Episcopal District, which includes Mississippi and Louisiana. There, too, he did what he did best, but was called to extraordinary service when Hurricane Katrina struck in 2005. He would go on to administer millions of dollars to restore damaged churches and sustain ministers and members of the district in the wake of that historic disaster. He was also appointed to the National Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund, a committee that oversaw distribution of more than \$70 million. He successfully supervised the restoration of 49 out of 51 churches damaged by Katrina: In 2008 he received his last assignment, to the 3rd Episcopal District, from which he retired in 2012, freeing him to continue advocacy matters close to his heart, which is what he was doing the last time he came to see me.

His considerable legacy will benefit generations to come. I mourn with his widow, Ernestine Lee Henning, a leader in her own right, and his family, friends and colleagues. I am grateful to have known him, and grateful for all he has left us.

HONORING AUDREY KENT AND HER SON MIKE KENT

HON. JOHN R. CURTIS

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to honor Audrey Kent and her son Mike Kent for their sacrifices on behalf of our nation.

Audrey Kent served as an army nurse for three years in San Francisco during the height of World War II. Working in an operating room, Audrey helped injured soldiers from the Pacific recover before being transferred home. In this capacity, Audrey alleviated the suffering of soldiers exposed to the horrors and carnage of war.

Mike Kent also heeded the call of duty and served in the Vietnam War. As a door gunner on a helicopter, Mike held an especially dangerous position that was often the focus of enemy fire. For eleven rigorous months, Mike inserted troops into the field, resupplied them, and conducted reconnaissance, besides other duties.

Doug Kent, Mike's brother and Audrey's son, also served during the Vietnam War repairing helicopters. Tragically, Doug was killed in a helicopter accident on the same day that Mike arrived in Vietnam. Doug's name is now inscribed upon the Vietnam Veterans Memorial with the names of other fallen heroes. Until now, neither Audrey nor Mike have had the opportunity to view Doug's name in person. Thanks to the generosity of the Utah Honor Flight program, both veterans will now have that opportunity.

As Audrey and Mike look forward to paying their respects to Doug, I honor them for their dedication to freedom and our country. The good that both have accomplished during their military service and throughout their civilian lives is immeasurable.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the service of Audrey and Mike to their country.

IN HONOR OF FORMER GEORGIA REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT F. RAY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable statesman, farmer, and public servant, former Representative in the Georgia General Assembly Mr. Robert F. Ray. Sadly, Representative Ray passed away on Tuesday, May 29, 2018. His passing marks the close of a long and prolific life, and his departure leaves a void in the hearts of many Georgians. A memorial service for Representative Ray was held on Friday, June 1, 2018, at First Baptist Church in Fort Valley, Georgia.

Robert Franklin Ray was born in Crawford County, Georgia to the union of William McCrary Ray and Thelma Crutchfield Ray on their family-owned farm. Robert's passion for farming and agriculture began during his childhood, as he helped his family plant and harvest crops on their farm, which is now a pecan orchard.

Robert's passion for farming and agriculture motivated him to build an impressive career which began at the age of 19 when he was elected President of the Crawford County Farm Bureau. By age 22, he had served as a member of the Crawford County Board of Commissioners before going on to serve two terms on the Crawford County Board of Education. He also served as the Assistant Commissioner for Marketing for the Georgia Department of Agriculture and the Manager of the State Farmers Market in Macon, Georgia. In 1982, Robert was elected to the Georgia General Assembly, where he served 12 terms and represented Crawford County and portions of Bibb, Houston, Lamar, Monroe, Peach, and Upson counties.

During his 24 year tenure, Representative Ray served as a member on the Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, Appropriations, Industry and Rules, House Journals, and Small Business Committees as well as the Chairman of the Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee. Representative Ray made agriculture his first priority as he worked diligently to ensure that the interests of farmers were supported and protected and led the charge to give poultry farmers rights in contract negotiations. His legacy also includes spearheading legislation and funding to support education and economic development, which was instrumental in the establishment of Georgia's system of tourism routes and the creation of toll-free calling zones in the Middle Georgia area.

In addition to his political career, Robert was actively involved in the communities that he served. He presided on a variety of boards, served in a number of organizations at the local and state levels, and received numerous awards and commendations.

Robert accomplished much throughout his life, but none of this would have been possible without his enduring faith in God and the love and support of his wife, Jennifer; his children, Lisa, Robin, Bob, and Adam; and his siblings and grandchildren.

On a personal note, Representative Ray and I served in the State House together and I was blessed with his friendship, counsel, and support over the years. Representative Ray was a great representative for Middle Georgia and a stellar example of how a public servant should serve his constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, along with my wife, Vivian, and the more than 730,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District in paying tribute to former Representative Robert F. Ray for his remarkable leadership in our great State of Georgia. He shall be remembered as an outstanding statesman, a champion of education, and an advocate for hard-working farmers. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family, friends and, loved ones during this difficult time and we pray that they will be comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DELAWARE & LEHIGH NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remark on a notable milestone in the history of the Pennsylvania 17th Congressional District. Thirty years ago, a group of thoughtful and committed citizens took the region's case for national historic significance to Congress. The result is the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor (D&L).

Today, the D&L Corridor is a lively, vibrant place to live. Towns and cities are revitalized, and their historic districts have been preserved. Technology, culture, and innovation have replaced the industrial past, while agrarian roots are still visible in the surrounding countryside. The D&L Trail connects people to our industrial heritage, health and wellness, economic development, and nature and the environment.

The D&L's unique combination of industry and natural resources helped it fuel America's 19th Century Industrial Revolution. The discovery of anthracite, and later the manufacturing of iron ore and its historic transportation path from Wilkes-Barre to Bristol, catapulted the region into an internationally-recognized hub of production. Without a doubt, the Delaware and Lehigh Canals and the Lehigh Valley Railroad were essential in this process. It is their history that the D&L works to preserve and celebrate as a Smithsonian Affiliate through the National Canal Museum and aboard the Josiah White II mule-drawn canal boat.

With the support of the National Park Service, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the William Penn Foundation, countless volunteers, and like-minded partner organizations, the D&L is continuing its commitment to inspiring connections by revitalizing towns, restoring its beautiful landscape, celebrating and preserving its heritage, and planning its future for generations to come in Luzerne, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton and Bucks County. The history of the D&L is still in the making.

THANKING BART DEWITT AND DOYLE SWINDELL FOR THEIR SERVICE ON THE ALVIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF REGENTS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Bart DeWitt and Doyle Swindell for their service on the Alvin Community College Board of Regents.

Bart and Doyle worked a combined 82 years of service on the ACC Board of Regents, a school where they are both alumnae. Bart joined the board as a trustee in 1972, while serving as a math teacher in Houston and Friendswood school districts. Doyle spent

nine years as chair of the board. During his time, he helped ACC acquire the Nolan Ryan Center and pushed for the expansion of the Science/Health Science Center. These two men have been described as tireless workers with a genuine passion for their community. They have been valued members of the Alvin Community College team.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Bart DeWitt and Doyle Swindell for their long period of service on the Alvin Community College Board of Regents. I thank them for their dedication to furthering education in our Alvin community. We are grateful to have such hardworking public servants in our district. Best wishes in their next endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO RALPH (ED) KERMOADE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ralph (Ed) Kermoade of Council Bluffs, Iowa on his induction into the Thomas Jefferson High School Hall of Fame. Ed is a 1974 graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School in Council Bluffs.

Ed earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska Omaha and graduated from Drake University with a degree in secondary education administration. Ed has been a teacher and coach in the Council Bluffs Community School District. His career has taken him to Longfellow Junior High School and Wilson Middle School and he has taught driver's education for 41 years at 13 different high schools across the Council Bluffs metro area. Ed remains active in the Council Bluffs community volunteering with the West End Optimist Club and the Cobra Optimist Sports Club. Ed said he always tries to pass on to his students that, "it is always the right time to do the right thing and if you are early, you are never late."

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Ed Kermoade as a member of the Hall of Fame at Thomas Jefferson High School. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in congratulating Ed and wishing him nothing but continued success.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MRS. JUNE FOSTER SANCHEZ

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Mrs. June Foster Sanchez, a retired educator, who died on May 24, 2018 at the age of 86.

Mrs. Sanchez was a retired educator who taught in the Orleans Parish Schools for 42 years, primarily at John W. Hoffman School. She was also an instructor in the Department of Education at Dillard University for seven years.

Mrs. Sanchez was the beloved widow of Mr. Andrew "Pete" Sanchez, Sr., who was the first African American Department Head for the city of New Orleans. From their marriage came twins, Andrew Jr. and Andrea.

Mrs. Sanchez graduated from Gilbert Academy Senior High School. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education from Dillard University, and she received a Master of Education degree in Early Childhood Education from Harvard University. Moreover, Mrs. Sanchez acquired (30) additional hours in advanced graduate studies from Xavier University, the University of Kansas, Loyola University and Tulane University.

Mrs. Sanchez received a Golden Diploma from Dillard University and she was a proud Life Member and Golden Sorority Member of the Alpha Beta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She was a member of the New Orleans Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction.

Mrs. Sanchez was a proud and faithful member of the Hartzell United Methodist Church. She served as Chairperson of the Administrative Board, Treasurer, and Board Member of Hartzell Day Care Center. She was President and Vice-President of Hartzell's United Methodist Women. She served as Secretary of the New Orleans-Slidell District United Methodist Women.

Mrs. Sanchez lived an extraordinary life that cannot be categorized. Her legacy will forever be a part of New Orleans and her dedication to community embodies the spirit of public service. We cannot match the sacrifices made by Mrs. Sanchez, but surely, we can try to match her sense of service. We cannot match her courage, but we can strive to match her devotion.

Mrs. Sanchez's survivors include her children Andrea (Jefferson, Sr.) and Andrew (Dr. Janice T.); Ruby Foster, mother; Ruby Sanchez, sister-in-law; Jefferson, Jr. and Ashley, grandchildren; Jemori, Journi, Jefferson, III, great grandchildren; Dr. Angelique Williams (Sterling, Jr.), niece; host of cousins; and devoted friends Delores Parker, Nathalie Latiker and Stella May.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Mrs. June Foster Sanchez.

RECOGNIZING THE 30 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE DELAWARE AND LEHIGH NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, which is celebrating 30 years of providing exceptional educational and recreational experiences for residents and visitors of Pennsylvania.

The unique and rich history of the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, which spans Luzerne, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton, and Bucks Counties, includes pioneering railroads, steel production, and coal mining and distribution. The corridor boasts 165 miles of mountain-lined trails, in addition to various canals, rivers and, and picturesque towns. Through the preservation of historic railways

and landscape, the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor pays tribute to this region's role as an early leader of industrial innovation and a shining example of our nation's natural resources.

Since Congress established the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor in 1988, the dedicated members of this organization have tirelessly worked to maintain and build on the progress of this landmark area, which encompasses nine Historic Landmarks, six National Recreation Trails, and two National Natural Landmarks. With the support of the National Park Service, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resource, the William Penn Foundation, countless volunteers and like-minded partner organizations, generations of Americans have and will continue to be able to connect with their heritage.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking all those organizations and individuals who have dedicated their time and effort over the last 30 years to make the Delaware and Lehigh Heritage Corridor the success it is today.

HONORING JEAN HILL & LARRY SCHULTIS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I want to honor two former Riverdale residents who, though they no longer reside here, have left an indelible mark especially on the Conservative Synagogue Adath Israel of Riverdale (CSAIR) community.

One thing was clear on that fateful day six months ago when Jean Hill and Larry Schultis moved out of Riverdale after making their life here. They might be leaving Riverdale, but they were not going to leave CSAIR. Our shul had become a constant in their lives and would remain so for a long time.

Jean and Larry met in 2005 and Larry moved to Riverdale in 2006. Jean celebrated her daughters' B'nai Mitzvah at CSAIR. Jean was comforted through Jean's mother's passing by attending minyan regularly at CSAIR with Larry. Jean and Larry watched proudly as their niece became the first child born to a gay couple to be named in the synagogue.

Jean and Larry have worked quietly and humbly to make CSAIR a stronger place. Jean, a partner in a management consulting firm and Larry, an attorney, are consummate problem solvers, who dedicate their work and their donations to improving CSAIR through overcoming any obstacles that arise. Not enough space? Larry worked with the architect to help plan and envision the new Betty Baum Library. Need a few more good people? He served on search committees and helps select the synagogue's Gladstein Fellows. Need a 10th on Friday morning? Larry is there.

Jean and Larry support both the Rabbi's Fund and the Cantor's Fund in appreciation of the critical role both play in the community, recognizing the importance of providing resources and flexibility to address urgent needs. This commitment is grounded in Jean and Larry's collective experiences from London to Scranton, when their family found Jewish communities, anchored by rabbis who wel-

comed them for holidays and made important connections. Jean and Larry see in Rabbi Katz and Cantor Stevens this same spirit of warmth and welcoming, and it has helped them feel at home here.

Jean and Larry have accomplished so much in the community, and for their incredible work CSAIR has chosen to honor them at their annual Gala Celebration. I would like to congratulate them on receiving this wonderful honor, and add my congratulations for all they have done to strengthen our neighborhood.

HONORING THE 126TH AIR REFUELING WING AT SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE IN ST. CLAIR COUNTY ILLINOIS

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the important efforts of the 126th Air Refueling Wing at Scott Air Force Base in St. Clair County, Illinois. On June 2, 2018, I celebrated the many achievements of this unit when I attended the 126th Air Refueling Wing Day, which was done by proclamation of the Governor.

The 126th Air Refueling Wing routinely succeeds in its mission of providing immediate, sustained, long-range air refueling of both nuclear and conventional aircraft for both U.S. Armed Forces and NATO Allies.

The 126th Air Refueling Wing has more than 1,000 Air National Guard and active duty United States Air Force Personnel who recently received its eighth Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for service provided from December 2014 through December 2016.

The service members of the 126th Air Refueling Wing routinely demonstrate their excellence in performance while supporting the United States Air Force operations. The significant awards and recognition the 126th Illinois Air National Guard has received sets the foundational framework for being a strong Center of Excellence for military aircraft. I am proud of their hard work and dedication to ensuring the best aircraft maintenance and repair work is done at Scott Air Force Base. Our national defense depends on having our military aircraft able to fly in a minute's notice, so the work they do every day is critical in keeping all of us safe at home.

TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA CANTRELL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Virginia Cantrell of Council Bluffs, Iowa on her induction into the Thomas Jefferson High School Hall of Fame. Virginia is a 1958 graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School in Council Bluffs.

Virginia was born into a family who valued education. Her mother taught school and her father served on the local school board. During Virginia's senior year in high school she

was class president, homecoming queen, and valedictorian. Virginia graduated from Graceland University, and the University of Iowa, and earned a master's degree in library science from Western Michigan University. She began her career working in an elementary school in Illinois. Virginia returned home to help with the family business after the death of her father. She worked for the Council Bluffs Public Library and was the librarian for Bloomer Elementary School and returned to Thomas Jefferson High School to help establish the first computer lab. Virginia has remained active in her community and is best known as one of the "peanut-brittle ladies" who help raise money for a school in Haiti and for other church ministries.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Virginia on the honor of being a member of the Hall of Fame at Thomas Jefferson High School. I am proud to represent her in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in congratulating Virginia and wishing her nothing but continued success in all her endeavors.

**DANA ABBOTT RECEIVES SWIM
COACH HALL OF FAME AWARD**

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dana Abbott of Katy, TX for receiving the National Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association Hall of Fame Award.

The Hall of Fame Award from the National Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association is one of the most significant awards for the sport. Two association members are named annually and have their names engraved on the trophy at the International Swimming Hall of Fame. In 2016, Coach Abbott led the St. John XXIII College Preparatory swim team to a girl's state championship and a boy's regional crown for the Lions. Coach Abbott founded the Tiger Swim Club in Katy and the West Houston Aquatic League. He also served as an assistant coach at the University of Texas before working as the head swim coach at Katy High School from 1980 to 2005. During his career, Abbott has received numerous awards including the TAPPS Male Coach of the Year in 2016, the 2008 Paragon Award from the International Swimming Hall of Fame, and the TISCA Theron Pickle Lifetime Achievement Award.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Coach Abbott for receiving the National Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association Hall of Fame Award. I thank him for his dedication to our education system and for sharing his passion for swimming with our students.

**IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH RE-
UNION OF THE BRAVE MEN AND
WOMEN OF THE 6TH AIRLIFT
SQUADRON**

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the 6th Air-lift Squadron is part of the 305th Air Mobility Wing at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey. It operates the C-17 Globemaster III supporting the United States Air Force global reach mission worldwide. The 6th Airlift Squadron is the oldest airlift squadron in the Air Force, having served with distinction since 1 October 1933—85 years ago. It must be understood that any aviation squadron which boasts a proud 85 year history can only be considered extraordinary. The squadron was initially assigned to the 2nd Transport Group, at Shreveport, Louisiana, and later reorganized in August 1937 with Reserve personnel at Columbus, Ohio. The squadron was activated on 14 October 1939 into the Army Air Forces at Olmsted Field, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The squadron made airlift history during World War II when, in October 1942, it was transferred to Port Moresby, New Guinea. Then flying C-47s, the 6th became the first personnel transport squadron to fly in the Pacific. It was during this assignment that the squadron earned the nickname Bully Beef Express, as it carried tons of boiled beef to allied combat troops in Australia and New Guinea. The French called it "boujili beef", and the Americanization of the term has continued to this day to be the squadron's emblem. The 6th performed aerial transportation in the Pacific Theater and Southwest Pacific Theater during World War II and in the Far East during the Korean War and after until 1968, when it was temporarily deactivated but then reactivated in April 1970 during the Viet Nam War as more C-141 Starlifters were coming into service. It has performed worldwide airlift operations since then. The 6th conducted resupply missions in support of scientific stations in the Antarctic during Operation Deep Freeze from 1971 to 1974. It re-supplied Israel during the 1973 Yom Kippur War. It evacuated Vietnamese refugees during the fall of Saigon, April through June 1975. It has also supported U.S. forces in Grenada, October through December 1983, during the invasion of Panama, December 1989 through January 1990, and during the liberation of Kuwait, August 1990 through March 1991, and continues to support military operations throughout the Middle East. In June of 1979 current and past members of the squadron organized the first of what would be 40 consecutive annual reunions spanning 4 decades—the longest continuous running reunion in the Air Force. On June 6, 2018, those past and present members of this distinguished military unit will celebrate a milestone with the 40th Annual Bully Beef Reunion. Today, we recognize the fine, dedicated men and women of the 6th who have served selflessly and honorably over 85 years, and congratulate them on their 40th Reunion.

HONORING LAURIE KRACKO

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a pillar of the Anshe Sholom community, Ms. Laurie Kracko, who this year is being honored by the congregation for all she has accomplished.

Laurie has been a life-long member of Congregation Anshe Sholom. Her grandparents, Selma & Erich Kracko became members in 1946. Her father Elliot was born into Anshe Sholom, and when he married Ellen in 1972, they continued their membership and have been involved ever since. Laurie grew up in New Rochelle and in Mamaroneck, went to Solomon Schechter grade school, and graduated from Scarsdale High School. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Business Communication from The University of Hartford in Connecticut.

Right out of college, Laurie started working for her father in one of his businesses. After a few years, Laurie chose to work in the non-profit world where she spent five years working at The National Jewish Council for Disabilities/Yachad, as office manager. In 2009, Laurie left Yachad to, once again, work in one of her father's businesses. In 2010, Laurie opened her own business, City Sprint Safety and Supply. In just under three years of being in business, a competitor approached Laurie and her business partner with an offer to purchase City Sprint. They sold the business in the winter of 2012. In March of 2015, Laurie bought out her father's business partner in Modern Paint & Hardware Corp. and together, Elliot & Laurie formed The Modern Paint Group, where they went from one paint & hardware store to eight in a matter of 90 days from April to July of 2015. This rapid growth turned Modern Paint into the second largest chain of paint stores in Westchester County.

Over the years, Laurie has become more and more active in Anshe Sholom. She is involved in planning events, weekly Kiddush preparation, social media and weekly Shabbat announcements. She is on the Chesed committee, the Outreach Committee and much more. Laurie became a Board Member in 2015, and in 2016 became Secretary of the Board.

In 2016, Laurie represented Congregation Anshe Sholom at the Westchester Jewish Council Leadership Development Program and has participated in many of their events and meetings on behalf of Anshe Sholom.

As you can see, Laurie has done it all, and is most deserving of this warm recognition. Congratulations to her on this grand occasion.

**IN RECOGNITION OF THE 20TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE CENTER
FOR DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS**

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 20th Anniversary of the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) which will be celebrated on June 14th.

On June 1, 1998, the Center opened its doors to America's first responders. Over the past 20 years, the staff of the CDP have provided cutting-edge training to first responders from all 50 states, every U.S. territory and many tribal nations. Through the years, the Center's unique training capabilities have prepared the nation's communities to plan for, respond to and recover from disasters. As the nation's only facility that trains local responders with live toxic materials, the CDP's training builds skills and confidence within the response community that can save American lives in a homeland security crisis.

Since its inception, the Center has continued to expand its facilities and curriculum to better meet the training needs of first responders. Today, the CDP serves an essential role within the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency for helping provide critical training that ultimately helps keep our communities safe.

I am pleased to recognize the staff of the Center for Domestic Preparedness today for reaching this important milestone, and look forward to witnessing its continued service to the nation.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the CDP on this exciting milestone in their history.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA
KEIFFNER ON THE OCCASION OF
HER RETIREMENT FROM IBJ
MEDIA**

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patricia "Pat" Keiffner on the occasion of her retirement from IBJ Media. For the past twenty-three years, Pat devoted her life to providing exceptional service to her co-workers, authors, IBJ partners, and vendors. In her more than two decades of service, Pat published various statewide publications focusing on education and launched over 400 books. The people of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District are forever grateful for Pat's commitment to literature and educating the next generation of Indiana students through her work in publishing.

Before residing in the Hoosier state, Pat earned a Bachelor of Arts in English and Sociology from Morehead State University in Kentucky. She later attended Southern Methodist University, where she earned her Master's in English. Passionate about education, Pat began her career as a secondary and post-secondary English coordinator and instructor at Plano Senior High School in Texas. After four years of teaching, Pat became the Dean of Academic Affairs at Sawyer Business College, and then was Senior Security Coordinator for Northrop Grumman, and later General Manager at the Greater Lexington Chamber of Commerce. These positions led her to Indianapolis where she started her own press firm, Magna Graphic/ Midwest Incorporated. Her leadership at Magna Graphic/ Midwest Inc. prepared her for her career at IBJ Media where she has been influential in the management of various projects and publications.

During her career at IBJ Media, Pat stood out as a leader. Her role in revamping the

graphic production and print processes was instrumental in the financial successes of the firm. Along with her superb management skills, Pat brought her passion for education into the publishing world. Pat started the Custom Publishing division of IBJ Media, responsible for launching several statewide education publications including Next Indiana, GRAD, and Career Ready. The Custom Publishing division is also responsible for producing publications for grades K–10, reaching hundreds of thousands of students across the State of Indiana. Relationship oriented, Pat developed long-term partnerships with the Indiana Commission for Higher Education and the Indiana Department of Workforce Development making these highly respected publications possible. During her time with IBJ Media, Pat's influence reached beyond the education sector.

Pat was responsible for overseeing more than forty custom publications annually for government, not-for-profits, and various industries. She also oversaw the expansion from print to web and mobile apps.

Her many awards are a testament to the exceptional work ethic of this incredibly talented individual. A hard worker, Pat published hundreds of books through IBJ Book Publishing, three of which were picked up by national publishers including Simon & Schuster. Most recently, one of these books received the National Jewish Book Award. Of particular note, Pat published *Breaking Cardinal Rules*, which drew national attention as a #1 best seller of basketball books.

Pat's impact on her community goes far beyond publishing. Rooted in a desire to make positive change, Pat used her extensive expertise to create successful public and private sector partnerships and received the Presidential Citation from Ronald Reagan for her statewide initiatives.

Pat's dedication to her community is evidenced by her service on the boards of Community Health Network Foundation, Little Red Door, Teachers' Treasures, Lugar Series, and Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce's ChamberAction. The Indiana Commission for Women recognized Pat as a Trailblazer as a recipient of the Torchbearer Award for her work with public/private partnerships.

Pat has made a remarkable impression on her community and the lives of her friends, family, and colleagues. She has truly left a legacy of success at IBJ Media that will be built upon for years to come. On behalf of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Pat Keiffner on her extraordinary career and extend my gratitude for all the wonderful contributions she has made to our Hoosier community. While I know Pat will be missed, I wish the very best to her husband John and the rest of her family as she enjoys a well-deserved retirement.

**TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF DR. JO
MARSHALL**

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Jo Marshall in recognition of her retirement after a lifetime of dedication as a highly esteemed post-sec-

ondary education administrator in Kentucky and Alabama, including her last 18 years of leadership as President of Somerset Community College (SCC) in Somerset, Kentucky.

Dr. Marshall and her late husband, Dr. Scott Marshall, were a dynamic team with immense passion for post-secondary education, who worked tirelessly to improve access to college degrees and open new doors of opportunity for those most in need. In fact, when the Marshalls first arrived in Somerset, they surveyed the rural Lake Cumberland region and quickly realized the tremendous need for a scholarship fund to help our students pay for tuition. So, Dr. Marshall launched the SCC Foundation, which is a nearly one-million-dollar fund today, making college dreams come true for countless local students.

Despite severe budget cuts and rising unemployment rates, Dr. Marshall guided SCC through some of its greatest successes. She expanded the local campus with several new state-of-the-art buildings, increased enrollment numbers to historic levels, developed key partnerships with four-year colleges and universities to streamline student transfers, and garnered a multitude of accolades for her personal leadership and SCC's achievements.

Dr. Jo Marshall is an incredibly gracious and humble individual who leads with a steady hand and a heart of compassion. She has made a remarkable difference in our community and in the lives of countless students in Kentucky. Although she is retiring, Dr. Marshall has laid a foundation for future success and growth as SCC continues to serve our region.

My wife, Cynthia, and I wish our dear friend, Dr. Marshall, many joyful years of retirement with her children and grandchildren.

**HONORING MIRIAM WESTHEIMER
& JOEL EINLEGER**

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to honor two individuals who have done outstanding work as part of the Conservative Synagogue Adath Israel of Riverdale (CSAIR) community, Miriam Westheimer and Joel Einleger.

Joel and Miriam found a home at CSAIR that spoke to their divergent backgrounds. Yeshiva-educated, Joel grew up in a Modern Orthodox family in Washington Heights connected to the local Jewish community. Miriam also grew up in Washington Heights, and her family's connection to Judaism was primarily cultural, with shul attendance reserved for High Holidays. They both were drawn by CSAIR's warmth, evident when the Havurah offered to make a minyan after Miriam's father passed away, and when food showed up on their doorstep after their oldest, Ari, was born.

Miriam served on the Education Board and the Social Action Committee; chaired the Gala honoring Rabbi Katz and Shoshi Talesnick; and worked on the Child Protection Committee. She organized the interfaith Seder, developed a partnership with the Creston Avenue Baptist Church, and started regular Israeli folk dance evenings. She also chaired the most recent Capital Campaign, which through

her special connection with Bette Baum, helped her to envision the new Baum library.

Like Miriam, Joel contributed to CSAIR by serving on the Design Committee for both building renovations. At the same time, Joel focused on the congregation's spiritual core. He organized the first Torathon, an evening of classes and workshops open to the community. He was passionate about finding a way to reinvigorate Friday nights, leading to the now popular Lechu Neranena program. He was also intent on providing an easy way to sustain Jewish learning and continuity through the Passport to Jewish Education initiative. This program encompasses a host of scholarship opportunities for the children of CSAIR members.

Both Joel and Miriam are CSAIR treasures, extending the warmth and energy that first embraced them to all who enter our doors. This year, CSAIR is honoring them for their exceptional contributions to the community at their annual Gala Celebration. They have chosen two outstanding honorees. I too want to congratulate both Miriam and Joel on this wonderful occasion and thank them for all they have done.

**KIM CROMIE NAMED KATY ISD
NURSE OF THE YEAR**

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kim Cromie of Katy, TX for being named the 2017–18 Katy Independent School District Nurse of the Year.

Kim, a nurse at Bonnie Holland Elementary School, cares for students and the sicknesses they endure throughout the academic year in a tremendously effective manner. Her colleagues describe Kim to be a crucial member of their team and are extremely appreciative of the work she has done. She was nominated for Nurse of the Year by her colleagues for her professionalism, work experience, volunteerism and clinic management experience. In 2017, Bonnie Holland Elementary School was recognized as a "Project Adam Heart Safe School," largely due to Cromie's work with the school's staff and Texas Children's Hospital. When not aiding the health of students, Ms. Cromie takes time out of her busy schedule to mentor other Katy ISD nurses.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Kim for being named the 2017–18 Katy ISD Nurse of the Year. I thank her for her dedication to keeping our kids healthy. We're lucky to have such an exemplary nurse caring for kids at Holland Elementary.

**AMERICAN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION'S 2018 STARS OF LIFE
AWARD**

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert Bukovac with the Trinidad Am-

bulance District. On June 12th, Mr. Bukovac will receive American Ambulance Association's 2018 Stars of Life award.

Robert Bukovac has dedicated his life to protecting all Americans through his service as a United States Marine, firefighter, and police officer. Today he is saving lives as a Paramedic and serves as the Las Animas County Emergency Preparedness Coordinator.

Mr. Bukovac is a valued teammate at the Trinidad Ambulance District and has gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to his community.

Our nation owes no greater debt of gratitude than the one we owe our first responders and service members. They have made incredible sacrifices for our country and deserve our utmost support and appreciation for their service. Robert Bukovac's continued dedication to service is a testament to his character, and I am proud to honor and recognize this outstanding accomplishment.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes and congratulations to Mr. Bukovac for receiving the 2018 Stars of Life award.

**HONORING ANSHE SHOLOM
SISTERHOOD**

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Anshe Sholom Sisterhood. It is my privilege to recognize their dedication to Anshe Sholom and the wider community as they celebrate 101 years of incredible work.

The earliest mention of the Sisterhood was in 1917, when it was called the Ladies Aid Society. From its inception, the Sisterhood has been concerned with the health and well-being of the New Rochelle Community. During the Second World War, the Sisterhood established and ran the first kosher kitchen for Jewish soldiers stationed at Fort Slocum, now known as David's Island. They also provided the free inoculations against polio and had organized blood drives.

Over the years, the Sisterhood has raised money for Anshe Sholom by hosting guest lecturers, art auctions, fashion shows, bazaars, card parties, charity dinners, and trips to Jewish Museums. Their work supports the Rabbi's discretionary fund and has helped finance renovations to the synagogue.

The Sisterhood also arranges the annual Passover Seder, assists with the community sukkah every year, with Succot dinners and Shavuot lunches, and provides gifts for Bar and Bat Mitzvahs. They are always available to help community members in need, visiting the sick and homebound, delivering food to those in need, and providing Shiva meals for the bereaved.

The Sisterhood has always been willing to support the work of the congregation, whether through direct financial help to the synagogue, helping hands to a family in need, or donations to community organizations feeding the hungry.

Over a century of work could only be achieved and sustained by individuals who are truly dedicated to their synagogue and community. I am proud to recognize the leadership

of the Anshe Sholom Sisterhood and their remarkable dedication and hard work.

TRIBUTE TO DUSTIE BURTON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dustie Burton from Greater Regional Medical Center in Creston, Iowa who was awarded the 2018 DAISY Award For Extraordinary Nurses at a ceremony this spring.

This award is part of the DAISY Foundation's program to recognize the superhuman efforts nurses perform every day. Dustie was nominated by patients, families, and colleagues because of her willingness to give her best efforts for the patients at GRMC.

I applaud and congratulate Dustie for her award and for providing excellent patient care in Iowa's Third District. I am proud to represent her and all the employees of the Greater Regional Medical Center in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues join me in congratulating Dustie Burton and wishing her continued success in the future.

**REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF DR.
HUMPHREY DON GERMANIUK,
MD, AP FP**

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember the life of Dr. Humphrey Don Germaniuk, 64, who passed away on Friday, April 20, 2018.

Humphrey was born on February 4, 1954 on Staten Island, New York City to Ukrainian immigrants Onufriji and Neonila Germaniuk. Growing up, Humphrey played in a rock and roll band that performed all throughout New York City. His band, Timeless, had gained such a large, dedicated following that they captured the attention of Capitol Records, and began recording with the label. At the age of 19, Humphrey took his first steps toward what would become a distinguished career in forensic medicine by volunteering with the Manhattan Medical Examiner's Office under the guidance of renowned physician Dr. Milton Helpert.

Humphrey studied Biology at Wagner College on Staten Island, and graduated in 1975. After graduation, he had the amazing opportunity to travel to Italy and obtain a dual Ph.D. and M.D. from the University of Rome. In 1984, he returned to the United States with a deep affection and appreciation for his Italian hosts and their Italian culture. Upon his return; Humphrey began his professional medical career at The Ohio State University, where he completed a residency in pathology in 1988. Following his residency, he held a Fellowship in Forensic Medicine at the Miami-Dade County Medical Examiner's Office in Florida and became certified as a Forensic Pathologist. After his certification, he served as an associate Medical Examiner for Onondaga County, New York for five years. Then in 1994, Humphrey was selected to serve as Deputy Chief

of the Washington, D.C. Medical Examiner's Office.

While in Washington, Humphrey built a national reputation as an authority in forensic medicine; honing his craft by performing thousands of autopsies and testifying in hundreds of capital trials, both in District and Federal Court. At the same time, Humphrey was able to keep his academic career alive by writing numerous articles on forensics, and also lecturing on various medical and legal aspects of death investigations as an adjunct professor at Georgetown and George Washington Schools of Law. By 1998, Humphrey was serving as Chief Medical Examiner of the Nation's Capital.

Despite receiving many accolades for his management of the Washington, D.C. Medical Examiner's Office, the professional demands of his position took a toll on him. Humphrey chose to return to Ohio after his time in Washington, and accepted a position as Assistant Coroner to Trumbull County. Humphrey described the change of scenery as a "priceless opportunity" to reconnect with what mattered most in his life, and he became the first certified Forensic Pathologist to serve the county.

In 2008, Humphrey found himself in politics for the first time as he successfully ran for his first term as Trumbull County Coroner. Over the next 10 years, until his death, Humphrey helped build the office into an extremely well respected one. As Trumbull County Coroner he fought to recoup taxpayer money lost in professional time spent testifying in private civil litigation. He also regularly advocated for legislation addressing reimbursement to counties, and conducted training seminars for police departments regarding death investigation.

During his long career, Humphrey had a distinguished record of national, state, and local community service. He was a delegate to the National Association of Medical Examiners and College of American Pathologists, governor of the Ohio Society of Pathology, and member of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists. He was also a member of the Ohio State Medical Association; the Ohio State Coroner's Association, and, perhaps most fondly for his colleagues and peers from Trumbull Memorial Hospital, as past president of the Trumbull County Medical Society.

In 2010, Humphrey was invited by Pakistan to participate in a series of lectures on the best practices for competent death investigation alongside representatives from the Punjab Forensic Science Agency, the Pakistani Supreme Court, and the Punjab Institute of Language, Art and Culture. The trip was conducted under the sponsorship of the U.S. State Department and hosted in the ancient city of Lahore as part of an ongoing diplomatic effort to strengthen ties between the two countries as part of the Global War on Terrorism. Humphrey considered the trip a great opportunity, and a defining moment in his career.

Alongside his impressive professional career, Humphrey was also an avid outdoorsman. He and his family enjoyed sailing on Lake Erie and Mosquito Lake, and hiking and hunting on the family's property in Western Pennsylvania. Humphrey was a member of the Vienna Fish and Game Club where he taught hunter safety education. He also belonged to the Trumbull County Antique Tractor Club, and actively participated in the County's Democratic Party.

He loved his family so much, and will be deeply missed by his wife of 36 years, Gene-

vieve Marie Germaniuk; son and daughter-in-law Zachariah Shevchenko and Suzanne Elizabeth (née Schoen) Germaniuk; sister and niece Nina Irene (née Germaniuk) and Nila Skye Cooper of Stillwater, Minnesota; step-niece Oksana (Sergie) Popova and grandnieces Ulyana Popova of New York, N.Y., and Drs. Vera (Richard) Salvatore, DDS (née Popova) of Schenectady, New York.

I extend my sincerest condolences to his family and friends.

HONORING SAMANTHA & DANIEL WIENER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is important that we acknowledge and celebrate the efforts of those who selflessly work to better their communities. Samantha and Daniel Wiener, the recipients of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale—more commonly referred to as the Bayit—Young Leadership Award, are two such people.

Samantha and Daniel are dedicated members of the Bayit who have been active in many important behind-the-scenes efforts on behalf of their shul.

They both bring their unique professional backgrounds into their involvement in the shul. Samantha's background in early childhood education, with extensive knowledge and expertise in educating young children, and Daniel's work in real estate, have impacted the areas of volunteerism that they have chosen to connect with at the Bayit. Daniel also serves on the executive committee, and he, Samantha and their children—Akiva, Tehila, and Liliya—are regular attendees at Tot Shabbat and supporters of the Youth Department.

Samantha and Daniel see what needs to be done at shul, step up, and offer their time and help without waiting to be asked.

This family's tireless efforts and spirit of volunteerism are exemplary. They are fitting recipients for the Young Leadership Award, and it is my hope that the youth of the Bayit will heed their examples. Congratulations to Samantha and Daniel on this well-deserved honor.

COMMEMORATING THE 29TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TIANANMEN SQUARE MASSACRE

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the 1989 massacre in Tiananmen Square, Beijing.

Today marks the 29th anniversary of what is deemed to be the greatest challenge to the communist state in China since the 1949 revolution.

We pause to remember the hundreds of civilians who risked their lives for democracy on June 4, 1989 and gave the last full measure of devotion in service to the cause of freedom.

The Chinese army shot unarmed civilians, mostly students, who participated in a 7-week

peaceful protest to urge for democratic reform in the midst of widespread government corruption.

Local residents who did not engage in the protests but assisted injured protestors likewise were mercilessly shot.

The inhumane violence and slaughter of innocent citizens shocked the world.

President George W. Bush strongly condemned the use of force, and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said that she was appalled by the massacre.

As the leading country of the free world and international community the United States has always promoted democratic governance and economic liberty as its key pillars.

Our enduring and unyielding commitment to democracy and peace makes it imperative for us to remember the victims of the Tiananmen Square Massacre and continually rebuke the use of violence by governmental actors against peaceful protesters whenever and wherever it happens.

TRIBUTE TO EMMA COCKBURN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Emma Cockburn of Nodaway Valley High School. Emma was recently honored for outstanding academic achievement at the Sixteenth Annual Governor's Scholar Recognition on April 29, 2018.

This statewide program is sponsored by the Iowa Governor's Office, the Iowa High School Athletic Association, and the Iowa Farm Bureau. Each Iowa high school was invited to select a senior with the highest academic ranking. Not only are they academically gifted, but the selected students are often the youth who are successful in extra-curricular activities and community endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Emma in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to reach her goals. I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Emma on receiving this esteemed designation, and wishing her the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY EQUESTRIAN TEAM WINNING NCEA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Auburn University Equestrian team for winning the 2018 National Collegiate Equestrian Association (NCEA) National Championship.

The Auburn team defeated number one Georgia 10 to five in the Extraco Events Center in Texas. This is the fifth national title for the Auburn program—with all five under

Coach Greg Williams and the second title in the last three years. 13 of the 14 riders that competed at the 2018 NCEA Championship will return for the 2018–19 season. Associate Head Coach Jessica Braswell was also named National Coach of the Year. This marks the 21st national title for Auburn athletics.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Auburn Equestrian team for this exciting accomplishment and congratulate them on a job well done. War Eagle.

THE CITY OF ALBION'S
BICENTENNIAL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the upcoming bicentennial celebration for Albion, Illinois. George Flower of Hertfordshire, England, founded Albion (which is the poetic name for England) in April 1818, just two miles east of where Morris Birkbeck, another affluent Englishman, founded Wanborough. The two villages and the area around them became known as the "English Settlement."

While Wanborough eventually faded away with the accidental drowning death of Birkbeck in 1825, Albion survived to play an important role in Illinois' history. Albion was the birth place of Illinois Governor Louis Lincoln Emmerson. He was born in the house which is now the Edwards County Historical Society Museum at 212 West Main Street. George Flower's brother-in-law, William Pickering, was elected to the Illinois State House of Representatives in 1842 and served for ten years. He developed a close relationship with Abraham Lincoln. When Lincoln was elected President, he gave Pickering his choice of either being Minister to England or Governor of the Washington Territory. Pickering chose to be appointed Governor of the Washington Territory.

The City of Albion is planning a three day celebration beginning on Friday, October 12, 2018, to commemorate their bicentennial. They will have a giant cake, several kettles of chowder, a quilt exhibition, music, and much more. On Sunday they plan on having a community-wide ecumenical worship service at the stage for all to attend.

I offer my congratulations to the city of Albion on their bicentennial anniversary, and I wish them many more.

HONORING LORNA AND MARK
BAKER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to recognize two constituents who have dedicated more than 40 years to the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale Bayit Community, Mark and Lorna Baker.

Mark was one of the first members to join the "boiler room" group in 1974 to help create

what the Bayit community has become. Mark served on the Board of Trustees and as the organization's Executive Vice President during the 1970s and 1980s. Over the past eight election cycles, Mark has chaired the Nominating Committee and worked to ensure fair elections.

As a criminal defense attorney, Mark hosted the "Guilty Until Proven Innocent—Freeing the Wrongfully Convicted" program last January, which brought former prisoners to discuss their experiences with the Bayit community.

As the Bayit community has been a part of Mark's life, his wife Lorna soon joined the community after their wedding. Lorna has participated and dedicated her time to the community for almost 20 years and is beloved by many. Lorna is a practicing clinical social worker who specializes in couples and in addition counseling those who need help free of charge.

The time Mark and Lorna have dedicated to the Bayit community has been impressive, as have their contributions. It is my pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to honor and thank the Bakers for the impact they have had in the Riverdale community.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
COMMANDER DEREK P. HOTCHKISS

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and character of a great American on the occasion of his retirement from active duty military service with the United States Navy. Commander Derek P. Hotchkiss, or simply Derek as he is known to all, has devoted his young adult life to the service of his family and country. He has set a towering example to all of us fortunate to know him. As Derek completes his tour of duty on the Joint Staff and hangs up his military uniform, we all know that his influence has reached far beyond the strict confines of his rank and previous job titles.

Derek's military career began at the Naval Academy Preparatory School in Newport, Rhode Island in 1994. Derek then attended the United States Naval Academy where he was a member of the football team. He graduated with the great Class of 1999 and commissioned as an Ensign into the United States Navy. Derek served honorably in uniform for two decades with tours of duty across the United States and deployments around the world. He served as the Supply Officer for the Navy's Flight Demonstration Squadron—the Blue Angels. He served as the Supply Officer aboard the frigate USS *Samuel B. Roberts* (FFG 58) in Mayport, Florida; and Assistant Supply Officer on the aircraft carrier USS *John C. Stennis* (CVN-74) in Bremerton, Washington. He represented the U.S. Navy as a Fellow with the Starbucks Coffee Company as part of the Supply Corp's Training With Industry Program. He led sailors and mentored young officers and NCOs. Along the way, he earned qualifications as a Supply Corps Aviator and Surface Warfare Officer and membership to the Acquisition Professional Community. Also, Derek earned a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Duke Univer-

sity's Fuqua School of Business in Durham, North Carolina. He also graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Executive Program, Seminar XXI. Most recently, Derek was hand selected to serve as the Executive Officer to the Director for Logistics (J-4), Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Derek has been a tireless advocate of the broader military objectives. His service has played a vital role in countless missions, all of which were crucial in advancing our national security interests. Throughout his career, Derek has been a role model for the men and women who have been lucky enough to serve with him. He has represented his faith, family, and his hometown of Bath, Ohio with great esteem.

In honor of his service, I would like to express my gratitude for Derek P. Hotchkiss' dedication to this country and our community. I wish him all the best. I am sure that he is looking forward to continuing his passion for the outdoors, and spending time with his loving family. Lastly, I recognize that alongside every strong Sailor stands an even stronger family. I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to his wife, Jennifer; daughters, Clare and Grace; and son, Will, for supporting this American hero during his time of service to our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO ERMA CLEVELAND

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Erma Cleveland of Oakland, Iowa on the occasion of her 100th birthday. Erma celebrated her birthday on May 12, 2018.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Erma's life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones, and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Erma has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-five Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Erma in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 100th birthday. I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in congratulating Erma on reaching this incredible milestone, and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

CONGRATULATING AZERBAIJAN
ON ITS CENTENNIAL REPUBLIC
DAY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I rise today to congratulate the Republic of Azerbaijan on its 100th year of independence as

the country celebrated the centennial Republic Day on May 28 of this year.

Since first declaring independence from the Russian Empire in 1918, Azerbaijan sought to be an example for new nations by adopting a National Charter granting all citizens within its borders full civil and political rights, regardless of ethnic origin, religion, or gender. The United States was quick to recognize and support Azerbaijan in 1918 and again in 1991, as Soviet dominance over the country ended.

Since then, Azerbaijan has continued to be an ally and partner to the United States, notably being among the first to provide comprehensive and unconditional assistance following the September 11 terrorist attacks. Azerbaijan continued to support the Global War on Terror efforts in Afghanistan, providing airspace to NATO jets en route to Afghanistan, and ground transport for non-lethal supplies in the region. Notably, Azerbaijan is one of the few Muslim-majority countries that enjoys strong relations with Israel, and it is this commitment, not just to the United States, but also her allies, that shows Azerbaijan's continued dedication to remaining a trusted and close friend to democratic nations across the globe.

Azerbaijan continues to be a leader in promoting global energy security. Once completed, the Southern Gas Corridor project will provide European markets access to natural gas in the Caspian Sea, allowing our European allies to diversify their energy sources, while bypassing Iran. This access is crucial to maintaining energy security in the region and promoting global trade opportunities for the United States and its allies.

Mr. Speaker, I would again like to thank the people of Azerbaijan for their continued partnership and friendship, and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Azerbaijan on this historic centennial Republic Day.

LAMAR SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED FOR 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Beverly Richard, Helen Daniels and Lydia Torres for their 40 years of service and dedication to the Lamar Consolidated Independent School District (CISD).

Beverly, Helen and Lydia have each worked for the school district for forty years. They were recently recognized by Lamar CISD for their dedication to our children and our schools. Their tenure and commitment to educational excellence is a true asset in our region.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again Beverly Richard, Helen Daniels and Lydia Torres on 40 years with Lamar CISD. I thank them for their commitment to education and to our kids.

HONORING BARRY BENDER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, communities find their strength in the dedicated individuals who offer their time and talent to benefit the greater good. For the past 18 years, Barry Bender has been one of those people regularly making selfless contributions to the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, or Bayit community.

Barry's service to the Bayit began as a natural extension of his Jewish professional life, conducting Jewish educational experiences throughout the U.S. and Canada using technology and multimedia.

He has brought his creativity and technical skills to many Bayit events and activities including the annual dinner, and to the video production and broadcast of the annual Selichot concert.

As an award winning amateur photographer, Barry is often seen around the Bayit with his camera documenting Shul life. He has given classes on a variety of topics including "Jewish Meditation," and "The Seven Days of Creation Through the Eyes of Science." He is also a proud member of the Bayit's Community Security Service (CSS) Team.

Barry's real claim to fame at the Bayit though is being a second generation shul lollipop man, continuing in his father zt"l's footsteps. His dedication to our community is a direct result of the values his parents taught him by example.

On June 3, 2018, at their 44th Annual Journal Dinner, the Bayit is honoring Barry Bender with their Community Service Award. I want to echo their recognition by extending my gratitude to Barry for all he has done to enrich the lives of those around him. This honor is extremely well-deserved.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS VACANCY REDUCTION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Courts Vacancy Reduction Act. This bill would allow local District of Columbia court nominees to be seated after a 30-day congressional review period unless a resolution of disapproval is enacted during that period. Currently, nominees cannot be seated without affirmative Senate approval. The congressional review process for nominees would be the same one used for legislation passed by the D.C. Council. It is therefore a reliable process, long-recognized by Congress. My bill is prompted by the unique requirement that judges for the local D.C. courts be confirmed by the Senate, where nominees for the federal courts, understandably, get the primary focus and priority. There is currently an urgency facing the District's criminal and civil justice systems, and the D.C. courts have raised serious concerns due to longstanding vacancies.

Whether under Democratic or Republican control of the Senate, the local D.C. courts

regularly face vacancy crises, which harm the operations of the judicial system in the District. Congress created the D.C. Judicial Nomination Commission (JNC) to recommend candidates, and Congress should generally defer to its judgment. This bill is a compromise, useful to all concerned, that retains a congressional role while saving the Senate time by removing the need for committee and floor action and increasing the odds that D.C. will have a full complement of local judges.

Currently, there are 10 vacancies out of 62 authorized judges on the D.C. Superior Court and two vacancies out of nine authorized judges on the D.C. Court of Appeals. In the current Congress, only one judge has been confirmed.

Both pre- and post-home rule, the District has never had control over the nomination and approval process of local D.C. judges. My bill would not alter the role of the JNC or the President in the nomination process. Under the Home Rule Act, the JNC recommends to the President a list of three persons for each vacancy on the Superior Court and Court of Appeals. The President must nominate a candidate recommended by the JNC within 60 days to the Senate for advice and consent. If the President fails to nominate such a person within 60 days, the JNC must nominate a recommended person directly to the Senate for advice and consent. The Senate has no obligation to provide its advice and consent. Under this bill, once a name has been transmitted to Congress, the nomination would be deemed approved unless a resolution of disapproval is enacted into law during a 30-legislative-day review period.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO MARIA A. THOMSON

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and achievements of Maria A. Thomson who was a tireless lifelong leader and advocate for the community of Woodhaven, Queens which she dearly loved. On January 10th of 2018, Mrs. Thomson passed away, leaving behind a lifelong legacy of community service and civic engagement. She earned the respect of city and state leaders, in fact she was known as the unofficial "Mayor of Woodhaven". With over 40 years of community activism, Mrs. Thomson's accolades and accomplishments are numerous. I hope to highlight some of her life's work today.

Mrs. Thomson was a dedicated public servant who cherished public safety and quality of life. Early in her career she was elected President of the 102nd Precinct Community Council, bridging the gap between law enforcement and the community. She later founded the volunteer local Civilian Patrol. As a result of her leadership, she earned the unique distinction of being the first and only civilian to be recognized as the 102nd Precinct's Honorary Police Officer of the Month. Furthermore, she annually honored the fallen heroes of 911 and our nations veterans.

To better ensure the delivery of government services to Woodhaven, she joined Queens

Community Board 9 where she served for three decades. In addition, Mrs. Thomson served as the Executive Director of the Greater Woodhaven Development Corporation for more than two decades and led the Woodhaven Business Improvement District (BID). She understood that small and independent businesses are vital to boosting the local economy, creating walk to work jobs and shaping a neighborhood's identity. Mrs. Thomson enjoyed promoting and showcasing Woodhaven's Jamaica Avenue business corridor by hosting the yearly "Wonderful Woodhaven Street Festival" and other events.

Whether she advocated for small businesses or led the fight to landmark the cherished Forest Park Carousel, her passion emanated from her strong sense of civic pride and duty. Her advocacy, passion and dedication to the betterment of Woodhaven was immeasurable. Mrs. Thomson truly set the bar for what it means to be a community activist and leader.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Maria A. Thomson's distinguished life of public service and accomplishments. Our neighborhoods are enriched because of her vision and leadership. We mourn her passing and cherish her legacy.

IN MEMORY OF CLEMENT CLAY
"BO" TORBERT, JR.

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Clement Clay "Bo" Torbert, Jr.

Bo was raised in Lee County. After graduating high school, he attended the U.S. Naval Academy and later graduated from Auburn University in 1951. At Auburn, he was a member of the school's swim team.

In 1954, Bo graduated from law school at the University of Alabama. In 1958, he was elected as a State Representative and in 1966, was elected to the Alabama State Senate. In 1976, Bo was elected as chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court where he served two six-year terms.

After serving in the Supreme Court, Torbert went on to teach at both the University of Alabama School of Law and Cumberland School of Law. He also joined the Maynard, Cooper and Gale law firm and practiced there until he retired.

Bo was an active member of First United Methodist Church in Opelika. He passed away on June 2, 2018 in Opelika, Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in remembering the life and public service of Bo Torbert. He will be greatly missed.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND JOE C.
JOHNSON

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize a man who lived

by faith and embodied a life of stewardship: Reverend Joe C. Johnson.

The Johnson family, the family of Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church, and the broader South Florida community mourn the loss of a moral and spiritual giant.

Reverend Joe C. Johnson was one of our boldest, strongest, and most unapologetic servant-leaders. As the senior pastor of Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church for the past 41 years, Reverend Johnson has been the cornerstone of a rich and vibrant faith community.

All those who knew him had the opportunity to soak in his wisdom. I am both humbled and proud to have not only known him, but to have been able to fellowship with him and his congregation. He was a role model, a keen listener, an advisor, and a dear friend.

I will always remember him as a man of great empathy and foresight;

A man who believed that people have an intrinsic value beyond their tangible contributions and cared deeply for his congregants; and

A man who worked tirelessly to better the lives of all those in our community.

My thoughts are with his wife Emma Inez, his children, grandchildren, and their entire extended family at Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church.

In the days, weeks, and months ahead, we will celebrate his life and honor his legacy. While this loss will be felt deeply by everyone, we are forever privileged to have shared this time with him on Earth.

May he rest in eternal peace.

REAFFIRMING THE COMMITMENT
OF THE UNITED STATES TO TAI-
WAN ON THE OCCASION OF THE
OPENING OF THE NEW OFFICE
OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE IN
TAIWAN

HON. GREGG HARPER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Taiwan Caucus to reaffirm the commitment of the United States to Taiwan on the occasion of the opening of the new office of the American Institute in Taiwan.

The Taiwan Relations Act was signed into law on April 10, 1979, codifying the foundation to preserve and promote continued economic, cultural, and strategic bonds between the United States and Taiwan. The United States and Taiwan have forged closer economic and security relations over the years based on our shared commitment to democracy, the rule of law, and free market principles; and Taiwan's willingness to partner in efforts to combat global terrorism and to address other global challenges. The United States is now Taiwan's largest investor and its second largest trading partner. Taiwan consistently ranks as a leading trading partner of the United States and Taiwan is a strategic destination for our agricultural exports. Taiwan is a significant economic and security partner of the United States in East Asia, and we look forward to Taiwan playing a key role in our Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy.

The Taiwan Relations Act further authorized the establishment of the American Institute in Taiwan to be responsible for implementing United States policy toward Taiwan as well as providing consular services to American expatriates. On June 12, 2018, the American Institute in Taiwan is scheduled to hold an inaugural ceremony for the opening of its new office in Taipei's Neihu district. This new facility is a reflection of the United States' enduring commitment to Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, as the American Institute in Taiwan opens a new office in Taiwan, let us reaffirm that the Taiwan Relations Act and the Six Assurances are and will remain cornerstones of United States relations with Taiwan. I urge the executive branch to implement the policy set forth in the Taiwan Travel Act, which would allow United States officials to travel without restrictions to meet with their counterparts in Taiwan, and for Taiwanese officials to do likewise with respect to travel to the United States. I would like to point out the sense of Congress contained in the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2018 that the State and Defense Departments' review of arms sales to Taiwan be handled in a manner consistent with standard processes and procedures for sales to other countries, and express gratitude to Taiwan for its partnership in combating global terrorism and addressing other global challenges through the Global Cooperation and Training Framework and other initiatives.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the American Institute in Taiwan on the upcoming opening of its new office in Taipei's Neihu district, and give our thanks to the Taiwanese officials who helped facilitate the site selection and construction of the facilities.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in expressing support for a continued strong relationship between the United States and Taiwan.

CONGRATULATING THE ALVIN ISD
TRACK AND FIELD TEAMS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Alvin ISD high school track teams for their performance at the 2018 Texas State Track and Field Meet held at the University of Texas at Austin.

Kynnedi Flannel, of Alvin High School, broke a 37 year record, while winning first place in the girls 6A 200 meter dash. She also won gold in the 100 meter dash and will attend the University of Texas next fall. Hailey Pollard, a senior at Shadow Creek, earned a silver medal in the girls 5A discus. She will attend the University of Houston next year. Ce'cori Tolds, of Manvel High School, was awarded a silver medal in the 5A boys high jump, leaping a whole 23 feet and 7.75 inches. Sydnee Williams, a freshman at Manvel, placed second in the 100 meter hurdles for girls. The Manvel women also placed sixth in the 4x400 meter relay, featuring a team of Rayah Wynn, Taylor Harvey, Thurneisha Keys, and Ja'Daisa Sims. These student-athletes made Alvin ISD proud track and field fans.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Kynnedey Flannel, Hailey Pollard, Ce'Cori Tolds, Sydnee Williams, Rayah Wynn, Taylor Harvey, Thurneisha Keys, Ja'Daisa Sims, Ajai Sample, Daija Reese, Demetria Phipps, and Celisa Cook for their performances at the 2018 Texas State Track and Field Meet. We look forward to seeing what their future holds.

IN MEMORY OF SAM STEWART
AND HIS SUPPORT OF THE
DOWNTOWN MARKET

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and celebrate the life

of Sam Stewart, Jr. and his support of The Downtown Market and City of Anniston.

Sam lived a life of public service in Anniston, Alabama and Calhoun County. Sam even served as an Anniston City Councilman and a candidate for Probate Judge. Sam was very active in the community and schools and was invested in making Anniston the best city it could be.

Sam served as a charter member of The Downtown Market's original advisory board and helped shape the market to be the success it is today. Rain or shine, you could always find Sam under the big top tent visiting with each vendor on market days.

Sam lived with MS, but did not let it slow him down. He was an avid Auburn fan and was always ready to talk football. Sam loved his family and his friends.

Sam passed away on October 12, 2016. His absence is still greatly missed in Anniston, but his vision for Anniston lives on in The Downtown Market—which he was passionate about.

On June 2nd, his life will be celebrated at The Downtown Market.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in remembering Sam Stewart and recognizing his hard work to make The Downtown Market a reality.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LLOYD DOGGETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I was present on the floor and used the voting machine to record my vote in favor of H.R. 5515, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2019. But for some unknown reason, my vote was not recorded.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 230.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

See Résumé of Congressional Activity.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2973–S2999

Measures Introduced: Twelve bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2987–2998, and S. Res. 532–534. **Page S2991**

Measures Reported:

S. 2987, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year. (S. Rept. No. 115–262)

S. 754, to support meeting our Nation's growing cybersecurity workforce needs by expanding the cybersecurity education pipeline, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 115–263)

S. 1520, to expand recreational fishing opportunities through enhanced marine fishery conservation and management, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 115–264)

Report to accompany S. 2283, to amend the Small Business Act to strengthen the Office of Credit Risk Management within the Small Business Administration. (S. Rept. No. 115–265) **Page S2991**

Measures Passed:

Authorizing the Use of the Capitol Grounds: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 113, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby. **Page S2997**

Hemp History Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 532, designating the week of June 4 through June 10, 2018, as "Hemp History Week". **Page S2997**

USS Manchester: Senate agreed to S. Res. 533, commemorating the commissioning of the USS *Manchester*. **Pages S2997–98**

National Travel and Tourism Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 534, supporting the goals and ideals of "National Travel and Tourism Week" and

honoring the valuable contributions of travel and tourism to the United States. **Page S2998**

Small Business 7(a) Lending Oversight Reform Act: Senate passed H.R. 4743, to amend the Small Business Act to strengthen the Office of Credit Risk Management within the Small Business Administration. **Page S2998**

Small Business Investment Opportunity Act: Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2333, to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to increase the amount of leverage made available to small business investment companies, and the bill was then passed. **Page S2998**

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the revision of the deferral of certain budget authority; pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975 as modified by the order of April 11, 1986, referred jointly to the Committees on Appropriations; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the Budget; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Energy and Natural Resources; Environment and Public Works; Finance; Foreign Relations; Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; and the Judiciary. (PM–42) **Pages S2990–91**

Axon Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Annemarie Carney Axon, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama. **Pages S2982–88**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 84 yeas to 11 nays (Vote No. 116), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S2981–82**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXII, Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at 11 a.m., on Wednesday, June 6, 2018. **Page S2988**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Wednesday, June 6, 2018. **Page S2998**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By a unanimous vote of 95 yeas (Vote No. EX. 113), Robert Earl Wier, of Kentucky, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky. **Pages S2974–78, S2999**

By a unanimous vote of 96 yeas (Vote No. EX. 115), Fernando Rodriguez, Jr., of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas. **Pages S2978–81, S2978, S2999**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 94 yeas to 1 nay (Vote No. 114), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S2978**

Nomination Received: Senate received the following nomination:

1 Marine Corps nomination in the rank of general. **Page S2999**

Messages from the House: **Page S2991**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S2991**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S2991**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2992–93**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S2993–94**

Additional Statements: **Pages S2989–90**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S2994–97**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S2997**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S2997**

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—116) **Page S2978, S2981–82**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:28 p.m., until 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 6, 2018. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2998.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: DOT AND HUD

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies approved for full committee consideration an original bill making appropriations for the Department of Transportation, Department of

Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2019 for the Department of Education, after receiving testimony from Betsy DeVos, Secretary of Education.

APPROPRIATIONS: MILCON/VA

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies approved for full committee consideration an original bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019.

APPROPRIATIONS: CFTC AND SEC

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2019 for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission, after receiving testimony from J. Christopher Giancarlo, Chairman, Commodity Futures Trading Commission; and Jay Clayton, Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission.

DIGITAL COAST PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard concluded a hearing to examine a decade of the Digital Coast Partnership Program, focusing on successes and opportunities, after receiving testimony from Nicole LeBoeuf, Deputy Assistant Administrator, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce; David Millar, Fugro, Houston, Texas; Paul Barnes, Harrison County, Missouri, on behalf of the National Association of Counties; and Tyson Fettes, Racine County, Wisconsin.

PREVENTING ABUSE IN OLYMPIC AND AMATEUR ATHLETICS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance, and Data Security concluded a hearing to examine preventing abuse in Olympic and amateur athletics, focusing on ensuring a safe and secure environment for our athletes, after receiving testimony from Lou Anna Simon, Michigan State University,

East Lansing; and Rhonda Faehn, Indianapolis, Indiana.

2018 WILDLAND FIRE OUTLOOK

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the 2018 wildland fire outlook and the wildland fire management programs at the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service, after receiving testimony from Victoria Christiansen, Interim Chief, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; and Jeffery Rupert, Director, Office of Wildland Fire, Department of the Interior.

NORTH KOREA

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy concluded a hearing to examine next steps on United States policy toward North Korea, after receiving testimony from Victor Cha, Center for Strategic and International Studies, and Joseph Y. Yun,

United States Institute of Peace, both of Washington, D.C.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Georgette Mosbacher, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Poland, who was introduced by Senator Blunt, and Stephen Akard, of Indiana, to be Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, with the rank of Ambassador, who was introduced by Senator Young, both of the Department of State, and Mark Rosen, of Connecticut, to be United States Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 16 public bills, H.R. 5996–6011; and 4 resolutions, H.J. Res. 135; and H. Res. 919–21, were introduced.

Page H4775–76

Additional Cosponsors:

Page H4777–78

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows: Report on the Suballocation of Budget Allocations for Fiscal Year 2019 (H. Rept. 115–710); and

H. Res. 918, providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 3249) to authorize the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 8) to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5895) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–711).

Page H4775

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Bucshon to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H4741

Recess: The House recessed at 12:21 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m.

Page H4744

Recess: The House recessed at 2:09 p.m. and reconvened at 4:33 p.m.

Page H4745

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act of 2018: H.R. 5956, to incentivize the hiring of United States workers in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

Pages H4745–48

North Country National Scenic Trail Route Adjustment Act: H.R. 1026, amended, 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;

Pages H4748–50

Susquehanna National Heritage Area Act: H.R. 2991, amended, to establish the Susquehanna National Heritage Area in the State of Pennsylvania, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 373 yeas to 9 nays, Roll No. 232;

Pages H4750–52, H4760

Directing the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the birthplace of James Weldon Johnson in Jacksonville,

Florida, as a unit of the National Park System: H.R. 5005, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the birthplace of James Weldon Johnson in Jacksonville, Florida, as a unit of the National Park System, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 374 yeas to 5 nays, Roll No. 231; **Pages H4752–53, H4759–60**

Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument Act: H.R. 5655, to establish the Camp Nelson Heritage National Monument in the State of Kentucky as a unit of the National Park System, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 376 yeas to 4 nays, Roll No. 233; **Pages H4753–54, H4760–61**

Route 66 National Historic Trail Designation Act: H.R. 801, amended, to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Route 66 National Historic Trail; and **Pages H4754–58**

Free Veterans from Fees Act: H.R. 3997, amended, to waive the application fee for any special use permit for veterans demonstrations and special events at war memorials on Federal land. **Pages H4758–59**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:40 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H4759**

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he withdrew four previously proposed rescissions and reported revisions to six rescissions previously transmitted to the Congress—referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 115–130). **Page H4761**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yeas-and-nays votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4759–60, H4760, and H4760–61. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Committee Meetings

SENATE AMENDMENT TO PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2018; WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2018; ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on Senate amendment to H.R. 3249, the “Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program Authorization Act of 2018”; H.R. 8, the “Water Resources Development Act of 2018”; and H.R. 5895, the “Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2019” [Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction and Veterans Af-

fairs Appropriations Act, 2019] [General Debate]. The Committee granted, by record vote of 8–2, a rule providing for the consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 3249. The rule makes in order a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on the Judiciary or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 3249. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the motion. The rule provides that the Senate amendment and the motion shall be considered as read. The rule provides one hour of debate on the motion equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. In section 2, the rule provides for the consideration of H.R. 8 under a structured rule. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. 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 115–72 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 makes in order only those further amendments printed in part A of the Rules Committee report. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. In section 3, the rule provides for the consideration of H.R. 5895 under a structured rule. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. 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 115–71, shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, for failure to comply with clause 2 rule XXI, except beginning on page 66, line 14, through page 66, line 20. The rule makes in order only those further amendments printed in part B of the Rules Committee report. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a

Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, may be withdrawn by the proponent at any time before action thereon, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in the report. The rule provides that no further consideration of the bill shall be in order except pursuant to a subsequent order of the House. In section 4, the rule provides that the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees may offer up to 10 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate. Finally, in section 5, the rule provides that during consideration of H.R. 5895, it shall not be in order to use a decrease in Overseas Contingency Operations funds to offset an amendment that increases an appropriation not designated as Overseas Contingency Operations funds or vice versa, but does not apply to amendments between the Houses. Testimony was heard from Chairman Goodlatte, Chairman Shuster, Chairman Frelinghuysen, and Representatives Jackson Lee, Paulsen, Estes of Kansas, DeFazio, Simpson, Carter of Texas, Kaptur, Ryan of Ohio, and Wasserman Schultz.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 2018

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to hold closed hearings to examine defense innovation and research funding, 10 a.m., SVC-217.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Space, Science, and Competitiveness, to hold hearings to examine the future of the International Space Station, focusing on stakeholder perspectives, 2:30 p.m., SR-253.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine countering malicious drones, including S. 2836, to assist the Department of Homeland Security in preventing emerging threats from unmanned aircraft and vehicles, 10 a.m., SD-342.

Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management, to hold hearings to examine war powers and the effects of unauthorized military engagements on Federal spending, 2:30 p.m., SD-342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: business meeting to consider the nomination of Tara Sweeney, of Alaska, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior, 2:30 p.m., SD-628.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of David James Porter, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, Holly A. Brady, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Indiana, Andrew Lynn Brasher, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama, James Patrick Hanlon, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Indiana, David Steven Morales, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, and Lance E. Walker, of Maine, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maine, 10 a.m., SD-226.

Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration, to hold hearings to examine student visa integrity, focusing on protecting educational opportunity and national security, 2:45 p.m., SD-226.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Full Committee, markup on the FY 2019 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 11 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services", 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "Examining the Reauthorization of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act", 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance, hearing entitled "Legislative Review of H.R. 1511, the 'Homeless Children and Youth Act of 2017'", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, hearing entitled "Improving Transparency and Accountability at the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection", 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4627, the "Shielding Public Spaces from Vehicular Terrorism Act"; H.R. 4991, the "Supporting Research and Development for First Responders Act"; H.R. 5206, the "Office of Biometric Identity Management Authorization Act of 2018"; H.R. 5207, the "Immigration Advisory Program Authorization Act of 2018"; H.R. 5729, the "Transportation Worker Identification Credential Accountability Act of 2018"; H.R. 5730, the "Transportation Security Technology Innovation Reform Act of 2018"; H.R. 5733, the "DHS Industrial Control Systems Capabilities Enhancement Act of 2018"; H.R. 5762, the "Joint Task Force to Combat Opioid Trafficking Act of 2018"; H.R. 5766, the "Securing Public Areas of Transportation Facilities Act of 2018"; and H. Res. 898, directing the Secretary of Homeland Security to transmit certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to Department of Homeland Security policies and activities relating to homeland security information produced and disseminated regarding cybersecurity threats

posed by the ZTE Corporation, headquartered in Shenzhen, China, 10 a.m., HVC-210.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 3777, the “Juab County Conveyance Act of 2017”; H.R. 4528, to make technical amendments to certain marine fish conservation statutes, and for other purposes; H.R. 4824, the “Rural Broadband Permitting Efficiency Act of 2018”; H.R. 5597, the “Desert Tortoise Habitat Conservation Plan Expansion Act, Washington County, Utah”; H.R. 5751, the “Golden Spike 150th Anniversary Act”; and H.R. 5875, to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and the Dingell-Johnson Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act, to provide parity for United States territories and the District of Columbia, to make technical corrections to such Acts and related laws, and for other purposes, 10:15 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing on legislation to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to recover the cost of processing administrative protests for oil and gas lease sales, applications for permits to drill, and right of way applications, and for other purposes; legislation to clarify the categorical exclusions authorized by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and authorize additional categorical exclusions to streamline the oil and gas permitting process, and for other purposes; legislation

to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to authorize notifications of permit to drill, and for other purposes; and legislation to clarify that Bureau of Land Management shall not require permits for oil and gas activities conducted on non-Federal surface estate to access subsurface mineral estate that is less than 50 percent Federally owned, and for other purposes, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on National Security hearing entitled “Protecting America from a Bad Deal: Ending U.S. Participation in the Nuclear Agreement with Iran”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 5895, the “Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2019” [Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2019] [Amendment Consideration], 3 p.m., H-313 Capitol.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Millennials and the Gig Economy”, 11 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled on “Lowering Costs and Expanding Access to Health Care through Consumer-Directed Health Plans”, 11 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Résumé of Congressional Activity

SECOND SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

The first table gives a comprehensive résumé of all legislative business transacted by the Senate and House.

The second table accounts for all nominations submitted to the Senate by the President for Senate confirmation.

DATA ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

January 3 through May 31, 2018

	<i>Senate</i>	<i>House</i>	<i>Total</i>
Days in session	82	79	..
Time in session	457 hrs., 26'	323 hrs., 14'	..
Congressional Record:			
Pages of proceedings	2,951	4,736	..
Extensions of Remarks .....	..	752	..
Public bills enacted into law	20	56	76
Private bills enacted into law .....	..	1	1
Bills in conference .....	..	..	..
Measures passed, total	204	266	470
Senate bills	35	21	..
House bills	50	176	..
Senate joint resolutions	4	1	..
House joint resolutions .....	..	..	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	2	1	..
House concurrent resolutions	11	14	..
Simple resolutions	102	53	..
Measures reported, total	* 122	* 222	344
Senate bills	75	5	..
House bills	37	187	..
Senate joint resolutions	1	..	..
House joint resolutions .....	..	..	..
Senate concurrent resolutions .....	..	..	..
House concurrent resolutions .....	..	1	..
Simple resolutions	9	29	..
Special reports	3	3	..
Conference reports .....	..	..	..
Measures pending on calendar	262	83	..
Measures introduced, total	891	1,534	2,425
Bills	710	1,257	..
Joint resolutions	10	10	..
Concurrent resolutions	6	24	..
Simple resolutions	165	243	..
Quorum calls	1	2	..
Yea-and-nay votes	111	151	..
Recorded votes .....	..	77	..
Bills vetoed .....	..	..	..
Vetoed overridden .....	..	..	..

DISPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

January 3 through May 31, 2018

Civilian nominations, totaling 456 (including 146 nominations carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	171
Unconfirmed	274
Withdrawn	11
Other Civilian nominations, totaling 834 (including 2 nominations carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	697
Unconfirmed	137
Air Force nominations, totaling 1,590 (including 76 nominations carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	1,413
Unconfirmed	177
Army nominations, totaling 3,453 (including 12 nominations carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	2,851
Unconfirmed	602
Navy nominations, totaling 895 (including 11 nominations carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	192
Unconfirmed	703
Marine Corps nominations, totaling 1,333, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	1,326
Unconfirmed	7
<i>Summary</i>	
Total nominations carried over from the First Session	247
Total nominations received this Session	8,314
Total confirmed	6,650
Total unconfirmed	1,900
Total withdrawn	11
Total returned to the White House	0

*These figures include all measures reported, even if there was no accompanying report. A total of 62 written reports have been filed in the Senate, 225 reports have been filed in the House.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Wednesday, June 6

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Annemarie Carney Axon, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation of the nomination at 11 a.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, June 6

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of the Senate Amendment to H.R. 3249—Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program Authorization Act of 2018 (Subject to a Rule) and H.R. 8—Water Resources Development Act, 2018 (Subject to a Rule). Begin consideration of H.R. 5895—Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2019 (Subject to a Rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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