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No. 175

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 14, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable KAIALI'I KAHELE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Holy and eternal God, praise be to Your name forever and ever. All wisdom and power are Yours. When measured against Your authority and dominion over the whole of creation, any advantage we boast, any victory we claim, fall short.

Humble us that we would acknowledge that all we have is Yours and any influence we wield is held accountable to Your design.

Immutable Lord, You change times and seasons, depose rulers, and raise up those who would replace them. Shape our sense of success into an awareness of and a commitment to our responsibility to live into Your grace plan.

Transform any sense of failure into the certainty of Your steadfast love and abiding faith in us. We are each held in the palm of Your guiding hand.

Grant wisdom to those who seek to become wise in serving You; and give knowledge to those who would discern Your will for their lives.

In the strength of Your eternal name we pray.
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 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCNERNEY 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.

COMMITMENT TO AMERICA

(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, Biden and House Democrats inherited a strong economy from President Donald Trump that worked for American families.

Unfortunately, under a Federal Government controlled by Democrats, inflation is at a 40-year high, illegal aliens are crossing the southern border at record numbers, and strategic oil reserves are at the lowest level since 1984, just to name a few of the serious challenges facing the country.

Now, through the democratic process, voters supported a Republican majority led by KEVIN MCCARTHY to the House of Representatives which will promote positive change.

House Republicans will immediately produce legislation reflecting the commitment to America. Republicans are focused on: a Nation that is safe; an economy that is strong; a future built on freedom; a government accountable to the people.

In conclusion, God bless our troops. We will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism. Congratulations, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel.

RECOGNIZING OLD DOMINION FREIGHT LINE

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, for a record-breaking 13th consecutive year, Old Dominion Freight Line has been named the number one National LTL Carrier for Quality.

Mr. Speaker, this is a tremendous feat, and one that underscores how this company has maintained a commitment to excellence since its inception in 1934.

Not only is Old Dominion a force to be reckoned with in delivering freight, both domestically and internationally, but it is also an economic driver in North Carolina.

Congratulations to Old Dominion and its countless dedicated employees. The work you do around the clock helps the world keep its promises.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DR. REGINA MOODY

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, in 2015, I spoke here to pay tribute to the wonderful place in Gaston County, North Carolina, called Holy Angels. Then it was being recognized for its 60th year fulfilling their mission of "loving, living, and learning for the differently able."

Today, I am here to honor the leader of this organization, Regina Moody, who, after 40 years as president and CEO of Holy Angels, is retiring.

□ 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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I have known Dr. Moody for most of my life. In fact, prior to her work at Holy Angels, she was my principal at St. Michael's School in Gastonia, where she spent a lot of time with my two brothers in the principal's office.

Dr. Moody has been a visionary leader for Holy Angels. Under her leadership, the organization has greatly expanded its level of full-time resident care, as well as physical therapy, day, and vocational programs. They also opened several local businesses to serve the community and give their residents occupational experience.

I wish Dr. Moody and her family the very best as she begins a very well-deserved retirement.

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 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.

ANDREW K. BAKER DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2159) to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 400 College Drive, Middleburg, Florida, as the "Andrew K. Baker Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic", and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2159

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF ANDREW K. BAKER DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 400 College Drive, Middleburg, Florida, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Andrew K. Baker Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic" or the "A.K. Baker VA Clinic".

(b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the community-based outpatient clinic referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the Andrew K. Baker Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on S. 2159.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Andrew Kenneth Baker, an esteemed antisubmarine warfare chief, a distinguished combat search and rescue swimmer, and a faithful servicemember who gave his life honoring his commitment to his country.

The bill before us, S. 2159, would appropriately name VA's community-based outreach clinic in Middleburg, Florida, the Andrew K. Baker VA Clinic.

Chief Petty Officer Baker represented self-sacrifice and courage in the name of public service.

Born in West Virginia in 1960, Chief Petty Officer Baker moved to Pensacola, Florida, in 1980 to begin what would be a remarkable 17-year stint in the U.S. Navy.

In Pensacola, CPO Baker graduated from the Search and Rescue Swimmer School before entering Fleet Replacement Aircrewman training at the Naval Air Station in Jacksonville, where he earned his "Wings of Gold."

Upon graduation, CPO Baker served on the USS *Nimitz*, reporting to HS-9, a helicopter antisubmarine warfare squadron for the Navy. From there, he served on HS-3 as the Training and Operations Chief for another antisubmarine warfare squadron safeguarding American interests over and under the seas.

Tragically, on March 13, 1997, while serving aboard the USS *John F. Kennedy*, Chief Petty Officer Baker and three others perished when their H-60 "Sea Hawk" helicopter crashed at sea during a Navy SEAL training mission.

Though his life was tragically cut short, in his 17 years of service, CPO Baker managed to cement a legacy of leadership, dedication, and steadfastness which will reverberate for generations to come. Indeed, today, Chief Petty Officer Baker is survived by his wife, Tina, and their son, who, himself, has completed six tours in Iraq, carrying on his father's legacy as a decorated patriot.

During his lifetime of service, Chief Petty Officer Baker won various honors, including the Navy Commendation Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, and the American Defense Service Medal, among others.

Today, I hope we will come together to honor Chief Petty Officer Baker one more time by renaming the VA's community-based outreach clinic in Middleburg, Florida, the Andrew K. Baker VA Clinic.

As an institution dedicated to supporting those who served, it is fitting that this VA clinic bear the name of a Navy chief who placed service to others above all else. With this legislation, we will take an important step in commemorating one servicemember's cour-

age and bravery, as we continue to honor all those who have served our country.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters of support for S. 2159 from The American Legion, VFW, and Disabled American Veterans as well as the Florida delegation.

THE AMERICAN LEGION,

OFFICE OF DEPARTMENT COMMANDER,

Orlando, FL, December 21, 2021.

Re Support for S. 2159, to name the Department of Veterans Affairs in Middleburg, Florida located in Clay County as the "Andrew K. Baker Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic".

Hon. MARCO RUBIO,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR RUBIO: On behalf of The American Legion, Department of Florida, Inc., we write to lend our support in naming the new Clay County Veterans Affairs Clinic after Chief Andrew K. Baker of Middleburg, Florida.

Chief Baker was an esteemed antisubmarine warfare chief and combat search and rescue swimmer of HS-3 in Jacksonville, Florida. After quickly rising through the ranks at Naval Aircrew Candidate School in Pensacola, Florida, Chief Baker earned his Wings of Gold for distinguished performance and served a tour on the U.S.S. *Nimitz*, being assigned as the Training and Operations Chief. In 1997, Chief Baker lost his life during a mission in North Carolina when his H-60 Seahawk helicopter crashed at sea during a SEAL training mission. His legacy currently lives on in his son who has completed six tours in the Middle East and has proven himself a dedicated hero.

We know that in naming the new Veterans Affairs clinic for Chief Baker, his heroic legacy will be enhanced in the Clay County community and will inspire future servicemen and women from across our great state.

Sincerely,

JERRY BRANDT,
Department Commander.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS,
Ocala, FL, September 30, 2021.

Hon. MARCO RUBIO,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR RUBIO: On behalf of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Florida we write to lend our support in naming the new Clay County Veterans Affairs Clinic after Chief Andrew K. Baker of Middleburg, Florida.

Chief Baker was an esteemed antisubmarine warfare chief and combat search and rescue swimmer of HS-3 in Jacksonville, Florida. After quickly rising through the ranks at Naval Aircrew Candidate School in Pensacola, Florida, Chief Baker earned his Wings of Gold for distinguished performance and served a tour on the USS *Nimitz* being assigned as the Training and Operations Chief. In 1997, Chief lost his life during a mission in North Carolina when his H-60 Seahawk helicopter crashed at sea during a SEAL training mission. His legacy now lives on in his son who currently has six completed tours in the Middle East and has proven himself a dedicated hero.

We know that in naming a new VA clinic for Chief Baker, his heroic legacy will be enhanced in the Clay County community and will inspire future service men and women from across our great state.

Yours in Comradeship,

DANETTE JEAN HERNANDEZ,
State Commander.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS,
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA,
Gainesville, FL, January 11, 2022.

Re Support for S. 2159 and H.R. 1960, to name the new Clay County Veterans Affairs Clinic in Middleburg, FL, the "Andrew K. Baker Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic."

The Disabled American Veterans, Department of Florida is writing this letter in support of legislation introduced by Senators MARCO RUBIO and RICK SCOTT. The propose legislation S. 2159 and H.R. 1960, would name the new Clay County Veterans Affairs Clinic in Middleburg, Florida after U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Andrew K. Baker, Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic, who was killed during a training mission.

An antisubmarine warfare chief, CPO Baker was a combat search and rescue swimmer attached to HS-3 homeported at NAS Jacksonville. Baker served on the USS *Carl Vinson* and USS *Coral Sea* as a ship's serviceman. Baker was killed when Trident 615, a H-60 Seahawk, crashed at sea on March 13, 1997, during a SEAL training event. CPO Baker served for seventeen years before his death.

We believe that naming the Clay County VA Clinic after Chief Petty Officer Andrew K. Baker will ensure the honor of duty he displayed for our grateful Nation. We respectfully request the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees quickly consider this important legislation.

Sincerely,

JOHN RABER,
Department Commander.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, January 11, 2022.

Hon. JON TESTER,
Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

Hon. MARK TAKANO,
Chairman, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

Hon. JERRY MORAN,
Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

Hon. MIKE BOST,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMEN TESTER AND TAKANO, RANKING MEMBERS MORAN AND BOST: As Members of the Florida Delegation, we write in support of S. 2159 and H.R. 1960, legislation that would name the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) clinic in Clay County, Florida after U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Andrew Kenneth Baker. Chief Baker served his country honorably for 17 years before tragically perishing while aboard Trident 615, an HH-60H "Sea Hawk" helicopter that crashed at sea on March 13, 1997.

Chief Baker served on the USS *Carl Vinson* and USS *Coral Sea* as a Ship's Serviceman. He is a graduate of Search and Rescue Swimmer School in Pensacola and Fleet Replacement Aircrewman training at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, where he earned his "Wings of Gold." Chief Baker then reported to HS-9, where he served on the USS *Nimitz*; and then at HS-3, where he was assigned as the Training and Operations Chief. His dedication to our nation reflects great honor on his family and our community. It is fitting that a VA clinic, an institution dedicated to supporting those who served, should be named after a faithful service member.

We respectfully request the Senate and House Committees on Veterans' Affairs quickly consider this important legislation. Please see the attached letters of support from the Florida Chapters of Several Veteran Service Organizations.

Sincerely,

MARCO RUBIO, U.S. Senator; RICK SCOTT, U.S. Senator; KAT CAMMACK, STEPHANIE

MURPHY, MATT GAETZ, LOIS FRANKEL, CARLOS GIMENEZ, GUS BILIRAKIS, MARIO DIAZ BALART, BILL POSEY, BRIAN MAST, W. GREGORY STEUBE, JOHN H. RUTHERFORD, MIKE WALTZ, VAL DEMINGS, NEAL P. DUNN, M.D., C. SCOTT FRANKLIN, MARIA ELVIRA SALAZAR, CHARLIE CRIST, AL LAWSON, DANIEL WEBSTER, TED DEUTCH, FREDERICA S. WILSON, DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, BRYON DONALDS, KATHY CASTOR, VERN BUCHANAN, DARREN SOTO; Member of Congress.

Mr. TAKANO. I thank Representative CAMMACK and the Florida delegation for their work on this bill, and I urge all my colleagues to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2159, a bill to rename the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Middleburg, Florida, the Andrew K. Baker VA clinic.

Chief Petty Officer Baker was a respected naval aircrewman, antisubmarine warfare chief, and combat rescue swimmer. He served on the USS *Carl Vinson*, CVN-70, and USS *Coral Sea* as a ship's serviceman.

He was a graduate of Search and Rescue Swimmer School in Pensacola, and Fleet Replacement Aircrewman training at Naval Air Station Jax.

While assigned to Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron 3, or HS-3, he served as the training and operations chief. Tragically, he lost his life while on a training mission off the coast of North Carolina in 1997, along with three of his fellow crewmen, when their H-60 Sea Hawk crashed into the sea.

He dedicated 17 years of service to our Nation's Navy and was responsible for training numerous warfighters.

In the aftermath of this training accident, the Navy reviewed many of its training policies, and Chief Baker continues his legacy by potentially saving future aircrewmen lives. Naming this clinic after Chief Baker will serve as an inspiration and a tribute to his service.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

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

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CAMMACK).

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in overwhelming support for the passage of S. 2159, or H.R. 1960, a bill designating the Florida Veterans Affairs Clinic in Middleburg, Florida, the Andrew K. Baker Department of Veterans Affairs.

First, I thank the entire Florida delegation for their support of this legislation, the entire Clay County community, the local elected officials who participated in this process, and all of the many veterans who call Clay County home.

Of course, my biggest thanks go to Ms. Tina Baker, the widow of Chief Andrew K. Baker.

Without a doubt, today's legislation would not be here for a vote without my colleague from Florida, Senator MARCO RUBIO, who ushered this legislation through the Senate Chamber earlier this year. I thank Senator RUBIO for his work on this bill.

This bill honors Antisubmarine Warfare Chief Andrew Kenneth Baker of Middleburg, Florida. Tragically, he lost his life in service to our great Nation. On March 13, 1997, Chief Baker's H-60 Seahawk crashed at sea during a SEAL training exercise. The mix of rough seas, the pitch of a frigate, fatigue, and visual disorientation caused by the night vision goggles they were all wearing were all factors in the accident.

As a result of his death, the Navy launched a formal review of its training policies and has since made drastic changes with regard to night vision training.

His widow, Tina, not wanting her husband's death to be in vain, has worked hard to make sure his memory and service didn't get lost in time and paperwork. Today, we have the chance to make sure that her husband is remembered forever.

Chief Baker served on the USS *Carl Vinson* and the USS *Coral Sea* as the ship's serviceman and completed training in Search and Rescue Swimmer School at Pensacola, and Fleet Replacement Aircrewman training at NAS Jax, where he earned his "Wings of Gold."

Chief Baker then reported to HS-9, serving on the USS *Nimitz*, then on HS-3, where he was assigned as the Training and Operations Chief.

□ 1415

At home in Middleburg, Chief Baker was an avid fisherman, always scouring the waters of Black Creek and the St. John's River as much as he could. He coached his son's Little League and served as the troop leader for the local Cub Scouts. He was a devoted husband to his wife, Tina, and sons, Andrew and Jacob.

As a personal point of privilege, I say that this clinic has been a large part of my professional life for the past decade. Back in 2015, as the deputy chief of staff serving this district, our team worked hard to secure the appropriations funding for this clinic. Once we succeeded in getting this project funded, finding the building that met the required specs was an entirely new and frustrating battle. After multiple failed attempts to secure a building, we finally succeeded.

This clinic has been a blessing to my beloved Clay County and to the veterans who call her home. With today's legislation as the final task outstanding, I can say with confidence to Chief Baker's widow, Tina: Now, he will always be remembered.

Mr. Speaker, I urge unanimous passage of this legislation and look forward to it being signed into law to honor this incredible servicemember and his family.

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the gentlewoman on this accomplishment, and I congratulate her also on her hard work in securing funding for the community-based outreach clinic.

I know how much of a difference they make, and I take this moment to call attention to the fact that the bipartisan achievement of funding so many community-based outreach clinics in the Honoring our PACT Act was transformational for this country, transformational for America's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in passing S. 2159, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2159.

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.

CORPORAL JERRY K. CRUMP VA CLINIC

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5481) to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Forest City, North Carolina, as the "Corporal Jerry K. Crump VA Clinic", as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5481

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

SECTION 1. NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC, FOREST CITY, NORTH CAROLINA.

The Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Forest City, North Carolina, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Master Sergeant Jerry K. Crump VA Clinic". Any reference to such clinic in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States shall be considered to be a reference to the Master Sergeant Jerry K. Crump VA Clinic.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5481, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Master Sergeant J.K. Crump, a native of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, and a Korean war veteran who embodied the courage and indomitable fighting spirit of our Nation's Armed Forces.

This bill, H.R. 5481, as amended, will name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Forest City, North Carolina, the Master Sergeant Jerry K. Crump VA Clinic.

I thank my colleague, Representative VIRGINIA FOXX, for introducing this bill.

In early September 1951, Master Sergeant Crump, then an 18-year-old Army rifleman, and fellow members of Company L of the 3rd Infantry Division were attacked by invading Chinese forces near Chorwon, Korea. In the fire-fight that ensued, Master Sergeant Crump left cover twice: first, to retrieve a wounded comrade, and then again to recapture a machine gun from advancing Chinese soldiers.

After returning to his position, an enemy grenade was flung into the fox-hole that Master Sergeant Crump shared with four wounded infantrymen. With no regard for his own well-being, Master Sergeant Crump covered the explosives with his own body. The grenade detonated, but miraculously, Master Sergeant Crump survived.

The heroism that Master Sergeant Crump displayed that day more than 70 years ago undoubtedly saved the lives of fellow soldiers and rightfully earned him the Medal of Honor, our highest military decoration for valor, which President Truman awarded him in 1952.

Master Sergeant Crump went on to serve another 26 years in the U.S. Army before retiring in 1976. He died a year later and was interred at the Mount Zion Community Cemetery in Cornelius, North Carolina.

Master Sergeant Crump's actions in combat were emblematic of the selfless sacrifice and devotion to duty that so many who don the uniform of our great Nation display. He, and the generation of those who served alongside him, truly represented the best ideals of our country.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters of support for H.R. 5481, as amended, from The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Disabled American Veterans.

THE AMERICAN LEGION,
DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA,
Raleigh, NC, March 16, 2022.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN FOXX, It is with a great deal of pride that I endorse the naming of the Veterans Affairs (VA) outpatient clinic in Forest City, North Carolina, after the Medal of Honor recipient and North Carolina native, Jerry Crump.

I am personally familiar with the facility in Forest City. I receive my medical atten-

tion at that clinic. The Forest City VA clinic is a wonderful facility, and the staff is outstanding.

I have met with the American Legion members in Forest City and in Henrietta, NC who have advocated for the renaming to the Jerry Crump VA Medical Clinic. There are a few older American Legion members that remember attending school with Jerry. The communities of Forest City and Henrietta are proud of the native son and have often advocated for this honor. The American Legion Department of North Carolina does whole heartily support the renaming of the Forest City VA clinic after Medal of Honor Recipient Jerry Crump.

The honor of naming a Forest City VA Clinic after this courageous American would be a fitting tribute to Corporal Crump.

Respectfully,

JIM QUINLAN,
*The American Legion,
Department of North Carolina.*

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS,
Raleigh, NC, March 10, 2022.

Rep. VIRGINIA FOXX,
Washington, DC.

Re Endorsement of naming the VA Outpatient Clinic in Forest City, NC after MOH Recipient Jerry Crump.

DEAR REP FOXX: As the State Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of America, Department of North Carolina, I am writing you to express full support of the naming of the VA Outpatient Clinic in Forest City, NC, after Medal of Honor recipient and North Carolina native, Jerry Crump. Mr. Crump embodied the spirit of patriotism, valor, fidelity and selfless service needed to save the Soldiers of his Platoon from death or serious injury when they came under attack on September 6-7, 1951 during the Korean War. Mr. Crump heroically flung himself on a grenade from an enemy Soldier and shielded his comrades from the blast. Naming this VA Outpatient Clinic in his name would be a great honor to this distinguished Soldier

RUSSELL CHAMBERS,
*State Commander,
Department of North Carolina.*

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS,
DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA,
Raleigh, NC, March 8, 2022.

Hon. MARK TAKANO,
Chairman, House Committee on Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC.

Hon. MIKE BOST,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC.

CHAIRMAN MARK TAKANO AND RANKING MEMBER MIKE BOST: On behalf of Disabled American Veterans, Department of North Carolina, we are honored to extend our support to the efforts of Congresswoman Virginia Foxx to designate the Veterans Affairs (VA) outpatient clinic in Forest City, North Carolina, after Medal of Honor recipient and North Carolina native, Cpl. Jerry Crump.

During the Korean War, on September 7, 1951, Cpl. Crump embodied outstanding courage above and beyond the call of duty to save his brothers in arms. His selflessness and gallantry inspired his comrades to aggressively counterattack and drive enemy forces from their perimeter. In memorializing his name may everyone who enters this facility remember that all gave some and some gave all.

Sincerely,
VERTIS R. RICHARDSON, III,
Department Commander.
JANICE WEATHERS,
Department Adjutant.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5481, as

amended. By doing so, we will bestow a befitting name on this facility in Ruth-erford County, North Carolina, where so many military veterans receive top-notch medical care.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5481, as amended, a bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Forest City, North Carolina, as the Master Sergeant Jerry K. Crump VA Clinic.

Master Sergeant Crump was a soldier in the U.S. Army during the Korean war, where he received the Medal of Honor and a Purple Heart for his heroic actions in September 1951.

Master Sergeant Crump rose above and beyond the call of duty in combat. One night, a numerically superior enemy force launched an assault against his unit's position on Hill 284. In danger of being overrun, he repeatedly put himself in danger, effectively firing on enemy combatants, killing several of them.

He then noticed two enemy soldiers on the verge of capturing an American machine gun. He charged at them with his bayonet, killing both and regaining control of the weapon.

Upon returning to his firing position, an enemy grenade landed in his bunker. He proceeded to jump on it and absorbed the blast, saving his fellow soldiers. His actions inspired his men so much that they rallied and conducted a successful counterattack.

It is for those heroic actions that Master Sergeant Crump was presented with both the Purple Heart and the Medal of Honor.

He miraculously survived the war and lived another 26 years. Tragically, he died in a car accident in 1977, at age 43, in Lincoln County, North Carolina. It is only fitting that this clinic be named after its hometown hero. It will serve as an inspiration, just like Master Sergeant Crump, for many generations to come.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I am very sorry that our good friend, VIRGINIA FOXX, is not here, but I thank Ranking Member FOXX for bringing to our attention the amazing story of this American hero.

I know the gentleman from Texas shares the growing emotion that I feel as we recognize these American heroes. It is truly remarkable.

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

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I likewise urge all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 5481, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5481, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Forest City, North Carolina, as the 'Master Sergeant Jerry K. Crump VA Clinic'."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RICHARD A. PITTMAN VA CLINIC

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6722) to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in French Camp, California, as the "Richard A. Pittman VA Clinic".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6722

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Richard A. Pittman was born on May 26, 1945, in French Camp, California.

(2) Richard A. Pittman enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1965 and was later promoted to Lance Corporal.

(3) On July 24, 1966, Lance Corporal Pittman's unit, First Platoon, Company I, Third Battalion, Fifth Marines, was moving along a trail near the Demilitarized Zone in the Republic of Vietnam when the Marines ahead of them came under attack.

(4) Upon hearing the attack, Lance Corporal Pittman took a machine gun and several belts of ammunition and rushed to aid his comrades. As he advanced, Lance Corporal Pittman encountered intense small-arms fire at point-blank range. He was able to return fire and silence the enemy combatants. Continuing towards the attacked Marines, Lance Corporal Pittman came under heavy fire from two automatic weapons, which he was able to destroy.

(5) When Lance Corporal Pittman learned there were additional wounded Marines further along the trail, he endured enemy mortar and gunfire to get to them. As he reached them, he faced an attack by 30 to 40 enemy fighters.

(6) Lance Corporal Pittman used a combination of machine-gun fire, an enemy sub-machine gun, a pistol from a fallen comrade, and a grenade to cause enemy forces to withdraw. Due to his courageous actions, many of his wounded comrades were saved.

(7) In recognition of his bravery that day, Richard A. Pittman, who was then a Sergeant, was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Lyndon B. Johnson on May 14, 1968.

(8) Richard A. Pittman retired in 1988 as a Master Sergeant, after having served in the Marine Corps for more than two decades.

SEC. 2. NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC, FRENCH CAMP, CALIFORNIA.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient

clinic in French Camp, California, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Richard A. Pittman VA Clinic".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the clinic referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Richard A. Pittman VA Clinic".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 6722.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of a remarkable Californian, Master Sergeant Richard Allan Pittman, by naming VA's brand-new, state-of-the-art outpatient clinic in French Camp, California, the Richard A. Pittman VA Clinic.

I thank my friend and colleague, Representative JERRY MCNERNEY of California, for leading this legislation, which will appropriately pay tribute to Master Sergeant Pittman, a marine who served his Nation with honor and distinction during and after the Vietnam war.

A native of the San Joaquin Valley, Master Sergeant Pittman was born in French Camp, California, in 1945 and graduated from Franklin High School in nearby Stockton in 1964.

Declared legally blind in one eye, Master Sergeant Pittman was considered medically unfit for combat by the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines, but he did not let that deter him. Set on serving in the military, Master Sergeant Pittman somehow bluffed a vision test and enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve in 1965. He was soon deployed to Vietnam.

On July 24, 1966, as his unit moved along a narrow jungle path near the demilitarized zone, marines ahead of him came under heavy fire. Master Sergeant Pittman immediately leaped into action, grabbing a machine gun and several belts of ammunition as he rushed to his comrades' defense.

Facing a frontal assault by dozens of North Vietnamese troops, Master Sergeant Pittman boldly repelled the enemy attack by using a combination of weapons he had at his disposal.

His actions that day no doubt saved the lives of several wounded marines. For this "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life," Master Sergeant Pittman was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Johnson in 1968.

He was discharged from the service that year, but Master Sergeant Pittman chose to reenlist. He went on to serve another 18 years in the Marines before retiring in 1988. He died in 2016 at the age of 71.

In addition to the Medal of Honor, the U.S. Armed Forces' highest declaration for valor, Master Sergeant Pittman also received the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with two bronze stars, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

These distinctions, like the naming of this VA clinic, are just symbols, however. The true measure of Master Sergeant Pittman's character was revealed to the world on that July day in 1966 and is evident in the lives of the marines that he saved.

I am humbled to be able to honor Master Sergeant Pittman's service, and I am proud to count him among the brave and dutiful servicemen and -women who have fought for centuries in defense of the American ideals we hold so dear.

Mr. Speaker I include in the RECORD letters of support for H.R. 6722 from the California delegation, as well as The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Disabled American Veterans.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, August 1, 2022.

Chairman JON TESTER,
Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

Chairman MARK TAKANO,
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JERRY MORAN,
Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MIKE BOST,
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TESTER, CHAIRMAN TAKANO, RANKING MEMBER MORAN, AND RANKING MEMBER BOST: We write in support of H.R. 6722, legislation that would designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in French Camp, California, as the Richard A. Pittman VA Clinic.

In July of 2021, Congressman McNerney appointed a committee of five veterans to collect and review potential names for the clinic. He called upon local veterans to submit name suggestions to be considered for the process. The committee ultimately recommended naming the facility after the late Richard A. Pittman, a highly decorated veteran who was the embodiment of bravery and service.

Richard Pittman was born in French Camp and enlisted in the Marines in 1965. On July 24th, 1966, his unit was moving along a trail near the Demilitarized Zone in the Republic of Vietnam when the Marines ahead of them came under attack. Upon hearing this, Pittman took a machine gun and several belts of ammunition and rushed to aid his comrades. As he moved towards the attacked Marines, Pittman came under heavy fire from two automatic weapons, which he was able to destroy. When he learned there were additional wounded Marines further along the trail, he endured enemy mortar and gun fire to get to them. As he reached his fellow service members, he faced an attack by 30 to 40 enemy fighters, and used a combination of machine-gun fire, an enemy submachine gun, a pistol from a fallen comrade, and a grenade to cause the enemy forces to withdraw. His actions that day saved many wounded com-

rades, and he was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Lyndon B. Johnson on May 14, 1968.

We urge you to swiftly advance H.R. 6722 to recognize this heroic veteran and his immense contribution to our nation. We believe the Richard A. Pittman VA Clinic will serve countless veterans throughout the region and uphold our promise to those who gave our country their all.

Sincerely,

JERRY MCNERNEY, DIANNE FEINSTEIN, U.S. Senator, NANCY PELOSI, Member of Congress, MARK TAKANO, JOSH HARDER, ALEX PADILLA, KEVIN MCCARTHY, JARED HUFFMAN, SCOTT H. PETERS, KAREN BASS, JACKIE SPEIER, AMI BERA, M.D., JUDY CHU, KATIE PORTER, GRACE F. NAPOLITANO, LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, JIM COSTA, JIMMY PANETTA, Members of Congress.

KEN CALVERT, JAY OBERNOLTE, ANNA G. ESHOO, ZOE LOFGREN, J. LUIS CORREA, SARA JACOBS, TONY CÁRDENAS, YOUNG KIM, JOHN GARAMENDI, RAUL RUIZ, M.D., TED LIEU, JUAN VARGAS, NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN, MARK DESAULNIER, LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ, JULIA BROWNLEY, ALAN LOWENTHAL, BRAD SHERMAN, BARBARA LEE, MIKE LEVIN, Members of Congress.

ERIC SWALWELL, MICHELLE STEEL, ADAM B. SCHIFF, MIKE THOMPSON, TOM MCCLINTOCK, NORMA J. TORRES, PETE AGUILAR, DORIS MATSUI, MIKE GARCIA, DOUG LAMALFA, RO KHANNA, DARRELL ISSA, MAXINE WATERS, CONNIE CONWAY, SALUD CARBAJAL, DAVID G. VALADAO, JIMMY GOMEZ, Members of Congress.

THE AMERICAN LEGION,
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA,
Sanger, CA, July 20, 2022.

Chairman JON TESTER,
Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JERRY MORAN,
Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

Chairman MARK TAKANO,
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MIKE BOST,
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TESTER, CHAIRMAN TAKANO, RANKING MEMBER MORAN, AND RANKING MEMBER BOST: I write to inform you that the California Department of The American Legion wholeheartedly supports H.R. 6722, legislation that would designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in French Camp, California, as the Richard A. Pittman VA Clinic.

In July of 2021, Congressman McNerney appointed a committee of five veterans to collect and review potential names for the clinic. He called upon local veterans to submit name suggestions to be considered for the process. The committee ultimately recommended naming the facility after the late Richard A. Pittman, a highly decorated veteran who was the embodiment of bravery and service.

Richard Pittman was born in French Camp and enlisted in the Marines in 1965. On July 24th, 1966, his unit was moving along a trail near the Demilitarized Zone in the Republic of Vietnam when the Marines ahead of them came under attack. Upon hearing this, Pittman took a machine gun and several belts of ammunition and rushed to aid his fellow comrades. As he moved towards the attacked Marines, Pittman came under heavy fire from two automatic weapons, which he was able to destroy. When he learned there were additional wounded Marines further along the trail, he endured enemy mortar and gun-fire to get to them. As he reached his fellow service members, he faced an attack by 30 to 40 enemy fighters, and used a combination of

machine-gun fire, an enemy submachine gun, a pistol from a fallen comrade, and a grenade to cause the enemy forces to withdraw. His actions that day saved many wounded comrades, and he subsequently was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Lyndon B. Johnson on May 14, 1968.

After retiring from the Marine Corps as a Master Sergeant, Richard Pittman remained a visible and active member of the community in the city of Stockton and San Joaquin County, California, promoting patriotism and citizenship.

We urge you to swiftly advance H.R. 6722 to recognize this heroic veteran and his immense contribution to our nation. We believe the Richard A. Pittman VA Clinic will serve countless veterans throughout the region and uphold our promise to those who gave our country their all.

Sincerely,

JERE ROMANO,
Commander,
The American Legion,
Department of California.

VFW,
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS,
Elk Grove, CA, May 31, 2022.

Chairman JON TESTER,
Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

Chairman MARK TAKANO,
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JERRY MORAN,
Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MIKE BOST,
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TESTER, CHAIRMAN TAKANO, RANKING MEMBER MORAN, AND RANKING MEMBER BOST: I write to inform you that the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of California supports H.R. 6722, legislation that would designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in French Camp, California, as the Richard A. Pittman VA Clinic.

In July of 2021, Congressman McNerney appointed a committee of five veterans to collect and review potential names for the clinic. He called upon local veterans to submit name suggestions to be considered for the process. The committee ultimately recommended naming the facility after the late Richard A. Pittman, a highly decorated veteran who was the embodiment of bravery and service.

Richard Pittman was born in French Camp and enlisted in the Marines in 1965. On July 24th, 1966, his unit was moving along a trail near the Demilitarized Zone in the Republic of Vietnam when the Marines ahead of them came under attack. Upon hearing this, Pittman took a machine gun and several belts of ammunition and rushed to aid his comrades. As he moved towards the attacked Marines, Pittman came under heavy fire from two automatic weapons, which he was able to destroy. When he learned there were additional wounded Marines further along the trail, he endured enemy mortar and gun fire to get to them. As he reached his fellow service members, he faced an attack by 30 to 40 enemy fighters, and used a combination of machine-gun fire, an enemy submachine gun, a pistol from a fallen comrade, and a grenade to cause the enemy forces to withdraw. His actions that day saved many wounded comrades, and he was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Lyndon B. Johnson on May 14, 1968.

After retiring from the Marine Corps as a Master Sergeant, Richard Pittman remained

a visible and active member of the community in the city of Stockton and San Joaquin County, California, promoting patriotism and citizenship.

I urge you to swiftly advance H.R. 6722 to recognize this heroic veteran and his immense contribution to our nation. We believe the Richard A. Pittman VA Clinic will serve countless veterans throughout the region and uphold our promise to those who gave our country their all.

Sincerely,

DAWN M. NAPIER,
Commander,
VFW Department of California.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS,
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA,

March 26, 2022.

Re Department of California supports naming the Stockton Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) after the late Master Sergeant Richard Pittman, USMC (Ret).

DEAREST CHAIRS AND RANKING MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE VETERANS AFFAIRS: As Commander of the Department of California Disabled American Veterans representing over 70,000 DAV Life Members in the State of California and in recognition of our fallen veterans and their survivors . . . as a department of veterans—who advocate daily for the heroes that served this nation; we sincerely support the renaming the Stockton Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) after the late Master Sergeant Richard Pittman, USMC (Ret).

Master Sergeant Pittman, received the Medal of Honor for his Bravery for the following: While Company (I) was conducting an operation along the axis of a narrow jungle trail, the leading company elements suffered numerous casualties when they suddenly came under heavy fire from a well-concealed and numerically superior force. Hearing the engaged marines' calls for more firepower, MSgt. Pittman quickly exchanged his rifle for a machine gun and several belts of ammunition, left the relative safety of his platoon, and unhesitatingly rushed forward to aid his comrades.

Taken under intense enemy small-arms fire at point-blank range during his advance, he returned the fire, silencing the enemy position. As MSgt. Pittman continued to forge forward to aid members of the leading platoon, he again came under heavy fire from two automatic weapons which he promptly destroyed. Learning that there were additional wounded marines 50 yards further along the trail, he braved a withering hail of enemy mortar and small-arms fire to continue onward. As he reached the position where the leading marines had fallen, he was suddenly confronted with a bold frontal attack by 30 to 40 enemy.

Totally disregarding his safety, he calmly established a position in the middle of the trail and raked the advancing enemy with devastating machine-gun fire. His weapon rendered ineffective, he picked up an enemy submachine gun and, together with a pistol seized from a fallen comrade, continued his lethal fire until the enemy force had withdrawn. Having exhausted his ammunition except for a grenade which he hurled at the enemy; he then rejoined his platoon.

MSgt. Pittman's daring initiative, bold fighting spirit, and selfless devotion to duty inflicted many enemy casualties, disrupted the enemy attack, and saved the lives of many of his wounded comrades.

We feel that this is a non-controversial name—in fact, one that reflects great credit on our San Joaquin County community, and which will serve as an inspiration to the clinic's staff and to the veterans whom they will serve.

Please join me in honoring the incredible life of Master Sergeant Richard Pittman, USMC (Ret) and signing onto the letter of support to the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Thank you for your support of America's disabled veterans and their survivors.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL KERR,
Commander.
DANIEL CONTRERAS,
DAV National 2nd
Vice Commander Adjutant/CEO.
GERALD G. WILSON, Jr.,
Legislative Director.

□ 1430

I again thank Representative MCNERNEY for championing this legislation and for his hard work in helping to make this new VA clinic in San Joaquin Valley a reality. It will serve Stockton-area veterans well for decades to come.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 6722, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6722, a bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in French Camp, California, as the Richard A. Pittman VA Clinic.

Richard Pittman was born on May 26, 1945, in French Camp, California. At age 20, he joined the Marines. A year later, in July of 1966, Lance Corporal Pittman's unit was moving on a trail in the jungles of Vietnam when the unit ahead of his came under heavy enemy fire.

Upon hearing this, Lance Corporal Pittman took his machine gun, along with several belts of ammo, and ran toward the sound of gunfire in true Marine Corps fashion. He came under intense enemy fire but managed to continue advancing toward the Marine unit that was under attack.

Faced by dozens of enemy combatants, he forced them to retreat by using a combination of machine-gun fire, captured enemy weapons, weapons from his fellow fallen marines, and hand grenades.

Due to his courageous actions in battle, Lance Corporal Pittman, now a sergeant, was presented the Medal of Honor by President Johnson in May of 1968.

He retired as a master sergeant, after serving more than two decades in the corps. Master Sergeant Pittman's selfless devotion of duty and fighting spirit to save the lives of his wounded comrades will be truly honored by having his name on this VA clinic.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY), my friend, the author of this legislation, who serves on the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, when I first came to Congress, one of my ear-

liest observations was the burden of veterans in my district to get to the nearest full-service veterans' health facility. In fact, I even took the drive from Stockton, California, to Palo Alto. It took all day. It became a top priority of mine to bring veterans a facility in my district to reduce the burden of the lengthy travel for local veterans.

My son Michael, who convinced me to run for Congress in 2004, himself a veteran, once told me of all of my accomplishments in Congress, I would be the proudest of what I had done for veterans. He was absolutely right.

The VA clinic currently under construction in French Camp is one of my proudest accomplishments. As we move forward to opening its doors, it is only fitting that this facility honor a local hero.

Master Sergeant Richard A. Pittman was born in French Camp and served with heroism during the Vietnam war. As his unit was moving along a trail near the demilitarized zone, a group of marines ahead of him came under attack.

Upon hearing this, Lance Corporal Pittman rushed to the aid of his fellow comrades, successfully destroying the enemy's weapons while under heavy enemy fire. He went on to aid additional wounded marines further along the trail, fighting back an attack by 30 to 40 enemy fighters and forcing the enemy to withdraw.

His actions that day saved many wounded comrades and led to him being awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

I knew Richard Pittman personally, and he was a true patriot. He was unassuming and did not seek out attention or publicity.

My congressional district and beyond mourned his passing. It is only fitting to name this new community-based outreach clinic, or CBOC, after Master Sergeant Richard A. Pittman.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in voting "yes" on H.R. 6722 and officially designating this new facility as the Richard A. Pittman VA Clinic.

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I again ask all my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 6722, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6722.

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.

LT. COL. LUKE WEATHERS, JR. VA
MEDICAL CENTER

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 6863) to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Memphis, Tennessee, as the "Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr. VA Medical Center".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6863

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Luke Joseph Weathers, Jr., was born December 16, 1922, in Grenada, Mississippi, then moved to Memphis, Tennessee, at age five.

(2) Luke Joseph Weathers, Jr., graduated from Booker T. Washington High School and is an alumnus of Xavier University in New Orleans.

(3) Upon his graduation, Luke Joseph Weathers, Jr., enlisted in one of the first training programs for Black pilots, beginning his journey as a Tuskegee Airman.

(4) Within his first few years active in the war, Luke Joseph Weathers, Jr., named his plane "Spirit of Beale Street", in honor of his hometown, Memphis, Tennessee. He flew this plane with the "Red Tails".

(5) He was credited with shooting down German planes while protecting United States Army Air Corps bombers and shooting down two Messerschmitt 109s in Italy while escorting a damaged B-24 Liberator bomber.

(6) During his military service, he rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

(7) Luke Joseph Weathers, Jr., received numerous honors and awards throughout his long and distinguished career.

(8) Among them, he was presented with an Air Medal with 7 clusters and an American Theater Ribbon Victory Medal during his military service.

(9) Following the war, Luke Joseph Weathers, Jr., returned to Memphis, receiving a hero's welcome and a key to the city.

(10) On July 13, 1947, he married LaVerne Nailling at St. Therese-Little Flowers Catholic Church in Memphis.

(11) In 1960, he accepted a job with the Federal Aviation Administration (hereinafter, the "FAA") as an air traffic control specialist in Anchorage, Alaska.

(12) In 1965, Luke Joseph Weathers, Jr., moved back to Memphis, becoming the first Black air traffic controller in Memphis.

(13) Weathers later held positions with the FAA in Atlanta, Georgia, and the District of Columbia, where he eventually retired in 1985, after serving as a reservist in the military for 23 years.

(14) During retirement, Luke Joseph Weathers, Jr., remained active with the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. and continued to support African Americans in the military.

(15) In 1995, Luke Joseph Weathers, Jr., moved to Tucson, Arizona, shortly after marrying Jacqueline Moore Weathers.

(16) In 2007, Luke Joseph Weathers, Jr., and the Tuskegee Airmen were honored with a Congressional Gold Medal.

(17) On October 15, 2011, Luke Joseph Weather, Jr., died in Tucson, Arizona, at the age of 90, leaving behind his wife, two sons and daughters, 12 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren as well as a legacy of countless lives he touched.

(18) On January 20, 2012, Lieutenant Colonel Luke Joseph Weathers, Jr., was interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF THE LT. COL. LUKE WEATHERS, JR. VA MEDICAL CENTER.

The medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs located in Memphis, Ten-

nessee, shall, after the date of the enactment of this Act, be known and designated as the "Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr. VA Medical Center". Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to such medical center shall be considered to be a reference to the Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr. VA Medical Center.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 6863.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Lieutenant Colonel Luke Joseph Weathers, Jr., a combat fighter pilot with the legendary Tuskegee Airmen, the first ever African-American air traffic controller in Memphis, and a trailblazing advocate for African Americans' military service.

The bill before us, H.R. 6863, would appropriately name the VA's medical center in Memphis, Tennessee, the Lieutenant Colonel Luke Weathers, Jr. VA Medical Center.

Lieutenant Colonel Weathers embodied service to country in a way that we all can admire. Born in 1922 in Mississippi, Lieutenant Colonel Weathers moved to Memphis, Tennessee, at age 5, the place he would call home for decades after.

After graduating from Xavier University in 1942, Lt. Col. Weathers returned to Memphis where he read a newspaper article about the newly created aviation cadet program in Tuskegee, Alabama, one of the first such programs in the country meant for aspiring African-American pilots.

Despite the racial discrimination he endured, Lieutenant Colonel Weathers secured a one-on-one meeting with Memphis political boss E.H. Crump, who personally recommended Weathers' nomination to the Tuskegee program to President Roosevelt. From there, Lieutenant Colonel Weathers began his distinguished military service, fighting as a combat pilot among the legendary Red Tails during World War II.

His noble accomplishments during the war included shooting down two German planes while protecting U.S. Army Air Corps bombers and shooting down two additional enemy aircraft in Italy while escorting a damaged B-24 Liberator bomber.

Even after the war, Lieutenant Colonel Weathers' service to his country continued. In 1960, he became an air

traffic control specialist with the Federal Aviation Administration, and soon after he became the first Black air traffic controller in Memphis.

Lieutenant Colonel Weathers retired in 1985, all the while serving as a reservist in the military for 23 years. In retirement, he advocated tirelessly on behalf of African Americans in the military, paving the way for generations of citizens to serve this country honorably, just as he did.

Lieutenant Colonel Weathers' lifetime of service earned him multiple honors and awards, including the Congressional Gold Medal in 2007, alongside 300 surviving Tuskegee Airmen.

Lieutenant Colonel Weathers passed away in October 2011. Today, he and the Tuskegee Airmen continue to be a symbol of justice, determination, and solidarity, ideals which embody the very best of this country.

The naming of the Memphis VA Medical Center in Lieutenant Colonel Weather's honor is a fitting tribute to his lifetime of service.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters of support for H.R. 6863 from The American Legion, the VFW, and Disabled American Veterans, as well as the Tennessee delegations of the House and Senate.

THE AMERICAN LEGION,
DEPARTMENT OF TENNESSEE,

Nashville, TN, February 22, 2022.

Hon. STEVE COHEN,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN COHEN: Please accept this letter as a demonstration of the total support of the American Legion Department of Tennessee, in recognition of renaming the Memphis Veterans Administration Medical Center in Memphis, Tennessee as "Lieutenant Colonel "Luke" Weathers Veterans Medical Center."

Lieutenant Colonel Weathers was a Grenada Mississippi native and was the first-ever black Air Traffic Controller in Memphis. Lieutenant Colonel Weathers was a member of the famed Tuskegee Airman from 1942 to 1945.

The Tuskegee Airmen flew 15,000 missions over North Africa and Europe during the Second World War. Luke downed two German fighter planes that attacked Army Air Force Bombers that he had been charged with escorting.

Lt Colonel Weathers, like other Tuskegee Airmen during World War II, conducted missions throughout Northern Africa and Europe for allied Forces and when Lt Colonel Weathers returned to Memphis from the war in 1945, he was presented with a parade down Beale Street and with the job opportunities for a star black pilot were scarce and Luke Weathers was fortunate to obtain a job as the first black air traffic controller at the FAA in Memphis.

The American Legion Department of Tennessee would like to honor his amazing legacy of service to God, Country, his fellow veterans, and his community of Memphis, TN with our full support and we wholeheartedly support and encourage the committee to sponsor and support legislation naming the new Aurora Veterans Clinic after this distinguished WWII Veteran.

On behalf of the 20,000 members of The American Legion in Tennessee I am proud to fully, endorse this effort.

Sincerely,
LARRY V. KERSEY,
Commander, The American Legion,
Department of Tennessee.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS,
DISTRICT 10,

Shelby County, TN, February 18, 2022.

To Congressman STEVE COHEN,
Via VFW Tennessee Department Commander
Bryan Walker
Subject Renaming Memphis VA Medical Center

It is with great pleasure that I write to tell you that our members support the renaming of the Memphis Veterans Administration Medical Center after the late Tuskegee Airman, FAA Air Traffic Control Specialist, and Memphis Civil Rights Pioneer, Lieutenant Colonel Luke Joseph Weathers, Jr.

Very Respectfully,

KAPELL EUGENE,
District 10 Commander.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS,
DEPARTMENT OF TENNESSEE,
March 17, 2022.

To Congressman STEVE COHEN,
Re Renaming Memphis VA Medical Center

It is with great pleasure that the membership of the Department of Tennessee, Veterans of Foreign Wars supports the renaming of the Memphis Veterans Administration Medical Center after the late Lieutenant Colonel Luke Joseph Weathers, Jr., a Tuskegee Airman, FAA Air Traffic Control Specialist and Memphis Civil Rights Pioneer.

BRIAN WALKER,
Department Commander.
JOHN SCOTT,
Department Adjutant/
Quartermaster.
KAPELL EUGENE,
District 10 Commander.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS,
DEPARTMENT OF TENNESSEE,
Lawrenceburg, TN, December 21, 2021.

Re Support Legislation in Naming the Memphis VAMC After Lt. Col. Luke Weathers Jr.

Congressman MIKE BOST,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN BOST: Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Department of Tennessee, with its membership of over 17,600 Veterans; wishes to support a legislative initiative by Congressman Steve Cohen in naming the Memphis VA Medical Center after Lt. Col. Luke Weathers Jr. Lt. Col. Weathers flew as one of the original Tuskegee Airman with the "Red Tails" during World War II and later returned to Memphis, Tennessee to work in aviation and serve as a mentor to many in the military and aviation communities. Weathers, who died in October in Tucson, Arizona, at the age of 90, was credited with shooting down two Messerschmitt 109's in Italy while escorting a damaged B-24 Liberator bomber in 1944. He returned to a parade in his honor in his home town of Memphis in 1945 and was given the keys to the city.

DAV Department of Tennessee's membership would appreciate your support in honoring Lt. Col. Weathers by naming the Memphis, Tennessee VA Medical Center after him. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL L. HARMAN, II,
Commander, Department of Tennessee,
Disabled American Veterans.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, March 15, 2022.

Chairman MARK TAKANO,
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MIKE BOST,
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TAKANO AND RANKING MEMBER BOST: Please accept this letter as a demonstration of our support for H.R. 6863, a bill that would designate the Memphis Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) in Memphis, Tennessee as the "Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr. VA Medical Center."

Luke Joseph Weathers, Jr. was born in Grenada, Mississippi and moved to Memphis, Tennessee when he was five. He graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in Memphis and Xavier University in New Orleans. He then enlisted in a training program for Black pilots, beginning his journey as a Tuskegee Airman in the U.S. Army Air Corps. Weathers flew with the "Red Tails" in North Africa, Italy, France, and Germany. He served with distinction, rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and receiving numerous honors and awards throughout his career.

At the end of the Second World War, Lt. Col. Weathers returned to Memphis where he received a hero's welcome and a key to the city. He participated in a war bond effort, raising \$1.5 million, the most raised by any African American Group. In honor of this achievement, a B-24 Liberator was named "Spirit of Beale Street."

Weathers began a career as an Air Traffic Control Specialist and in 1965 became the first Black air traffic controller in Memphis. Throughout his life, he remained active with the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. and was a mentor to countless youth who had an interest in the military or aviation.

It is fitting to have the Memphis VAMC to be named after a veteran with such a distinguished career and who represents the city so well. We are proud to support this effort.

Sincerely,

TIM BURCHETT,
JIM COOPER,
SCOTT DESJARLAIS,
MARK E. GREEN, MD,
DIANA HARSHBARGER,
DAVID KUSTOFF,
CHUCK FLEISCHMANN,
JOHN ROSE,

Members of Congress.

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC, June 24, 2022.

Chairman MARK TAKANO,
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MIKE BOST,
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TAKANO AND RANKING MEMBER BOST: We write to express our support for H.R. 6863, a bill that would name the Memphis Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) in Memphis, Tennessee the "Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr. VA Medical Center."

Luke Joseph Weathers, Jr. was born in Grenada, Mississippi and moved to Memphis, Tennessee at age five. Upon his graduation from Booker T. Washington High School and Xavier University, he enlisted in a training program for African-American pilots. Upon completion, he began his career as a Tuskegee Airman in the U.S. Army Air Corps. Weathers flew with the "Red Tails" in North Africa, Italy, France, and Germany. He was decorated with honors and awards throughout his career. For his exemplary service, Weathers rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Lt. Col. Weathers received a hero's welcome and a key to the city upon his return

to Memphis following World War II. He then raised \$1.5 million in a war bond effort—the most of any African-American Group. A B-24 Liberator was named the "Spirit of Beale Street" to honor this great achievement.

In 1965, Lt. Col. Weathers became the first African-American air traffic controller in Memphis. He would spend the rest of his career as an Air Traffic Control Specialist. He remained active with the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. throughout his life and mentored countless youth with interests in the military or aviation.

It is fitting to have the Memphis VAMC named after a veteran with such a distinguished career, who embodied the spirit of the Volunteer State. We wholeheartedly support this effort.

Sincerely,

MARSHA BLACKBURN,
U.S. Senator.
BILL HAGERTY,
U.S. Senator.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6863, a bill to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Memphis, Tennessee, the Lieutenant Colonel Luke Weathers, Jr. VA Medical Center."

Luke Joseph Weathers, Jr., was born on December 16, 1922, in Grenada, Mississippi, but called Memphis his home from an early age.

Upon graduating from college, Luke Weathers joined a newly organized Army Air Corps training program. While there, he earned his pilot wings and commission as a second lieutenant and began his journey as a Tuskegee Airman.

Lieutenant Weathers flew with the Red Tails in North Africa, Italy, France, and Germany. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for escorting and defending a damaged B-24 bomber against eight German fighters in November of 1944. He shot down two of them.

Luke Weathers rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in a distinguished and highly rewarded military career.

He began a second career as an air traffic control specialist, and in 1965, he became the first Black air traffic controller in Memphis.

Throughout his life, he remained active with the Tuskegee Airmen and was a mentor to countless youth who had an interest in the military or aviation fields.

I cannot think of an individual more deserving to represent the VA presence in Memphis.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN), my very good friend, who is the author of this legislation. He serves on the Committee on the Judiciary as chairman of the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties Subcommittee. He also serves on

the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman TAKANO and Ranking Member BOST for bringing this bill to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our bill, H.R. 6863, to name the Memphis VA hospital in honor of a true World War II hero and a hero in American life, Lieutenant Colonel Luke Weathers, Jr.

I didn't know of Lieutenant Colonel Weathers until his passing, and I read about his passing in the Memphis newspaper, the Commercial Appeal, and I went and attended his funeral at St. Theresa Little Flower Church, where he was a member. I think he integrated the church. The church is a large church and it was packed.

In spite of the fact that he had moved to retire to Arizona, possibly in Tucson, maybe 15 or 20 years earlier, the people knew Lieutenant Colonel Weathers, they knew his work, they knew his good deeds in the community, and they knew his actions. I was honored to be at that funeral, and I thought this man is something else.

It has been well documented what he did with his life and with the Tuskegee Airmen and the Red Tails and the several airplanes he shot down.

There is a movie coming out now that is getting a lot of advertisement, and all Members of Congress have been invited to see this week, called "Devotion," about an African-American pilot who was a star in the Korean war.

It was Lieutenant Colonel Weathers and the Tuskegee Airmen who were the predecessors of that gentleman's opportunity to defend his country and to show his skills. That is another reason why his name at the veterans hospital will be so important, to inspire people to go into a military career and pursue aviation, which Lieutenant Colonel Weathers encouraged people to do, particularly African-American young men.

I was also honored to attend his funeral. It was a funeral with a flyover, military caisson, and "Taps," as befitting a gentleman who had served his country as he did.

His family is very strong in Memphis in support of their father's legacy. I met them in St. Theresa Little Flower Church at his funeral in 2011.

Lieutenant Colonel Weathers paved the way for many to become pilots, and his legacy endures in the countless lives that he touched.

I thank our Tennessee delegation who unanimously supported this legislation and this naming of the new Memphis VA Medical Center. It was also endorsed by The American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

I thank Chairman TAKANO, Ranking Member BOST, and the members of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee for advancing the bill through committee and bringing it to the floor today. I

thank Mr. HOYER for his help with that, too.

We have done a good thing today to honor a true American hero. I think fondly of him. I had commissioned a plaque to be created and installed at the Memphis airport recognizing his service in the Federal Aviation Administration and integrating that facility. I am honored I will be a part of keeping his memory alive forever.

□ 1445

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be associated with the passage of this bill to honor Lieutenant Colonel Weathers. I have the distinction of representing the University of California, Riverside, where resides the Tuskegee Airmen Archives.

I am reminded by the Speaker's presence on the dais and the presence of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) that you are both veterans and that serving our veterans and remembering our veterans is not about two colors. It is not about red or blue, but it is about red, white, and blue, and that all colors of America have fought for the three colors, and they bled one color.

It is important for us to remember the poignancy of our segregated fighting units of World War II, the last war in which we had segregated fighting units, and mark the progress that this country has made and that we must continue to make, so it is fitting that I call on all my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 6863.

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 California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6863.

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.

MAJOR GENERAL OLIVER W. DILLARD VA OUTPATIENT CLINIC

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7903) to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Canton, Michigan, as the "Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Outpatient Clinic," as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7903

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Oliver W. Dillard was born on September 28, 1926, in Margaret, Alabama.

(2) In 1945, following basic training he was drafted and was assigned to the 349th Field Artillery Group in Germany as part of the World War II army of occupation. He was selected to serve as company clerk and began to work his way through the ranks, attaining Technical Sergeant.

(3) Dillard successfully completed the Officer Candidate School (OCS) selection process and was approved for attendance at the Infantry OCS at Fort Benning in January 1947. He received a commission as a Second Lieutenant of Infantry after graduating from Infantry OCS in July 1947 and was the honor graduate of his Infantry officers basic course.

(4) He served in command and intelligence positions in Korea, Germany, and Vietnam.

(5) During his service, Dillard graduated from the Army Command and General Staff College (CGSC) in 1958, where he was one of only three Black officers in his class. After CGSC, he completed his bachelor's degree at the University of Omaha leveraging his earlier studies at Tuskegee Institute.

(6) In 1965, Mr. Dillard graduated from the National War College, becoming the first Black officer to do so. He graduated at the top of his class.

(7) MG Dillard's military awards include the Distinguished Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Bronze Star with one Oak Leaf Cluster and "V" Device, the Purple Heart, the Air Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge with Star (two awards), the Army Staff Identification Badge, and the Vietnam Distinguished Service Order (1st and 2d Class). Dillard also received two civilian awards from the Republic of Vietnam, the Vietnam Rural Revolutionary Development Medal and the Vietnam Ethnic Development Service Medal (1st Class).

(8) Dillard was inducted into the United States Army's Military Intelligence Hall of Fame in 2012, the Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame in 2012, and the Alabama Military Hall of Honor in 2013.

(9) He died in Canton, Michigan, in 2015, and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC LOCATED IN CANTON, MICHIGAN.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic located in Canton, Michigan, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Clinic".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Clinic".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 7903, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Major General Oliver William Dillard, Sr., a decorated soldier, an exemplary Army intelligence officer, and a pioneer for other Black and minority military leaders.

I thank my colleague, Representative HALEY STEVENS, for introducing this bill, H.R. 7903, as amended, which will designate the VA outpatient clinic in Canton, Michigan, as the Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Outpatient Clinic.

Originally from Margaret, Alabama, deep in the Jim Crow South, Major General Dillard enrolled at the Tuskegee Institute at age 15 shortly after the famed Tuskegee Airmen program was established. He was a proud ROTC cadet and student instructor at Tuskegee and an exceptional student as well.

Major General Dillard postponed his academic studies, however, after being drafted into the U.S. military in 1945. He completed basic training at Fort McClellan, Alabama, and was sent to Bavaria, Germany, where he served as an administrative specialist in the Army's 349th Field Artillery Group during World War II.

Following the war, Major General Dillard chose to remain in the Army. He completed Officer Candidate School and was assigned to the all-Black 356th Infantry Regiment at Fort Dix, New Jersey.

He served admirably throughout five campaigns in the Korean war and graduated from the Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth in 1958 as one of only three Black officers in his class.

Major General Dillard later assisted a U.N. peacekeeping mission in Monrovia, Liberia, before returning to the United States and working as a senior intelligence officer in Washington, D.C.

In 1964, he became the first Black officer to attend the Army's prestigious National War College and was selected to command a battalion of the 5th Combat Support Training Brigade at Fort Dix.

He served honorably with the U.S. Military Assistance Command during the Vietnam war, and upon his return he was promoted to brigadier general, making him just the fifth Black flag officer in U.S. Army history.

Major General Dillard went on to serve posts at Fort McPherson, Georgia; Fort Hood, Texas; and Heidelberg, Germany, before retiring from the Army after a 34-year career in 1980.

He remained committed to advancement opportunities for Black and minority officers in his retirement and was a steadfast advocate for equality within all branches of the Armed Forces, supporting the overturning of the military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy for LGBTQ servicemembers before it was officially repealed in 2011.

For his dutiful service to this Nation, Major General Dillard received nine

military awards and two civilian medals, including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge with a star.

Veterans who receive care at the VA clinic in Canton, Michigan, should feel honored to enter a facility bearing Major General Dillard's name. I know we, as Members of Congress, are profoundly honored and grateful for his service to our country as well.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters of support for H.R. 7903, as amended, from The American Legion, VFW, and DAV, as well as the Michigan delegation.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, May 27, 2022.

HON. MARK TAKANO,
Chairman, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

HON. MIKE BOST,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TAKANO AND RANKING MEMBER BOST: We write in support of legislation to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community based outpatient clinic in Canton, Michigan, as the "Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Outpatient Clinic".

Oliver W. Dillard was born on September 28, 1926, in Margaret, Alabama, and began a distinguished career of service in 1945 when he was first drafted and assigned to the 349th Field Artillery Group following basic training. He was selected to serve as company clerk and began to work his way through the ranks.

In January 1947, Mr. Dillard was accepted to attend the Infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, where he received a commission as a Second Lieutenant of Infantry. He served in command and intelligence positions in Korea, Germany, and Vietnam. In 1965, Mr. Dillard graduated from the National War College, becoming the first Black officer to do so.

Throughout Major General Dillard's distinguished service career, he held various esteemed positions and received many military and civilian awards. He served as the first black General Officer in the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff of Intelligence, served as Deputy Chief of Staff to the U.S. Army Forces Command, and Deputy Chief of Staff of Intelligence for the U.S. Armed Forces in Europe. Major General Dillard received nine military awards and two civilian medals during his years of service, including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge with Star.

Mr. Dillard retired in 1980 from military service—US Army as a Major General after 34 years of service and resided in Canton, Michigan, where he later passed.

It is in recognition of this barrier breaking service to his country that we express our support for renaming the Department of Veterans Affairs clinic in Canton, Michigan in his honor. We appreciate your time and consideration of this of this important matter. We look forward to working with you to recognize the life and service of Major General Dillard.

Sincerely,

HALEY M. STEVENS, BRENDA L. LAWRENCE, DANIEL T. KILDEE, ELISSA SLOTKIN, RASHIDA TLAIB, DEBBIE DINGELL, BILL HUIZENGA, PETER MELJER, TIM WALBERG, FRED UPTON, ANDY LEVIN, LISA C. MCCLAIN, JACK BERGMAN, JOHN R. MOOLENAAR, Members of Congress.

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, October 12, 2022.

Chairman JON TESTER,
Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

Chairman MARK TAKANO,
Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.
Ranking Member JERRY MORAN,
Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

Ranking Member MIKE BOST,
Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TESTER, RANKING MEMBER MORAN, CHAIRMAN TAKANO, AND RANKING MEMBER BOST: We write in support of H.R. 7903, a bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Canton, Michigan, as the "Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Outpatient Clinic."

Major General Dillard began his career 34 year career in 1945 when he was assigned to the 349th Field Artillery Group. In 1947, he attended the Infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning where he received a commission as a Second Lieutenant of infantry, and served in command and intelligence positions in Korea, Germany, and Vietnam. In 1965, Major General Dillard became the first Black officer to graduate from the National War College.

Major General Dillard served in many distinguished capacities in the military throughout his life, including as Deputy Chief of Staff to the U.S. Army Forces Command, and Deputy Chief of Staff of Intelligence for the U.S. Armed forces in Europe. Major General Dillard received nine military awards and two civilian medals during his 34 years of service, including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge with Star.

Major General Dillard retired from military service in 1980 and resided in Canton, Michigan, until his passing in 2015. In recognition of Mr. Dillard's exemplary service to his country, we express our strong support for renaming the Canton, Michigan Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in his honor and ask for the Committee's consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

DEBBIE STABENOW,
U.S. Senator.
GARY C. PETERS,
U.S. Senator.

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Submitted By Department Legislative Committee

Subject Naming the Canton V.A. CBOC

RESOLUTION 22-17

Whereas, Oliver W. Dillard Sr. lived in Canton, Michigan at the time of his passing; and

Whereas, Oliver W. Dillard Sr. served in the United States Army and retired as a Major General after 34 years; and

Whereas, Oliver W. Dillard Sr. served the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, the last J2 (senior Intelligence officer) for the U.S. Military Assistance Command—Vietnam, the first U.S. Army Forces Command Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence, and the first black Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence for the U.S. Army Europe; and

Whereas, Oliver W. Dillard Sr. was the fifth black officer in the U.S. Army to attain the flag rank; and

Whereas, Oliver W. Dillard Sr. was the first black graduate of the National War College in 1965; and

Whereas, Oliver W. Dillard Sr. was a member of the Military Intelligence Hall of Fame and Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That The American Legion, Department of Michigan, via DEC email vote on April 8, 2022, supports the efforts of Michigan Congressional Representative Haley Stevens to name the V.A. Community-Based Outpatient Clinic, Canton, Michigan, the Major General Oliver W. Dillard Sr. Department of Veterans Affairs Health Clinic".

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS,
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN,
Lansing, MI, May 4, 2022.

Representative HALEY STEVENS,
Washington, DC.

TO THE HON. REPRESENTATIVE HALEY STEVENS: The Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Michigan enthusiastically supports the renaming of the VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinic, Canton, Michigan to be the "Major General Oliver W. Dillard Sr. Department of Veterans Affairs Health Clinic".

Major General Oliver W. Dillard Senior's 34 years of exemplary service to our Nation cannot be understated, and the renaming of this facility is a small step towards recognizing his incredible service to our Nation. Through the renaming of this facility, our Nation can begin to express its gratitude for all he represented for his accomplishments during his service and in breaking down barriers for African American service members: his graduation as the first African American from the National War College in 1965; being selected as the first African American U.S. Army Forces Command Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence, and being recognized in the Military Intelligence Hall of Fame and Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame just to name a few.

We thank you for your endurance of bringing this task to our attention allowing us to recognize those who served our Nation honorably.

KEVIN A. CONKLIN,
State Commander,
Veterans of Foreign
Wars, Department of
Michigan.

DEREK BLUMKE,
State Adjutant &
Quartermaster,
Veterans of Foreign
Wars, Department of
Michigan.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS,
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN,
Fraser, Michigan, April 28, 2022.

The Office of Congresswoman HALEY STEVENS:

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The Disabled American Veterans, Department of Michigan supports Congresswoman HALEY STEVENS' initiative to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Canton, Michigan, as the "Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Outpatient Clinic".

The DAV Department of Michigan believes naming the Canton Outpatient Clinic in honor of General Dillard is a fitting tribute to his dedication to duty and selfless sacrifices over a lifetime of service to our country. General Dillard is not only an inspiration to all of us who have served, but also to generations of future veterans that will answer our nations call.

Sincerely,

PAUL KAISER,
Adjutant,
DAV Department of Michigan.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I again thank the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) and all Members of the Michigan delegation for their initiative on this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7903, as amended, a bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Canton, Michigan, as the Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Outpatient Clinic.

Major General Dillard began his 34-year career in 1945 when he was assigned to the 349th Field Artillery Group in Germany as part of the post-World War II army of occupation.

In 1947, he attended the infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, where he received a commission as a second lieutenant. He then went on to serve in command and intelligence positions in Korea, Germany, and Vietnam.

In 1965, Major General Dillard became the first Black officer to graduate from the National War College.

Major General Dillard served in many distinguished capacities until his retirement in 1980. Not only did he break down numerous barriers over his career, but he held various esteemed positions, earned military medals, to include the Silver and Bronze Stars, and multiple civilian awards.

By naming the VA clinic in Canton after this officer who served with such distinction and sacrifice, the many veterans who will see his name will no doubt be inspired by his legacy.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL), who serves on the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Natural Resources Committee.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the very distinguished chair of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, who understands so many of these issues.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 7903, legislation to designate the VA clinic in Canton, Michigan, as the Major General Oliver Dillard VA Outpatient Clinic.

I thank my colleague, HALEY STEVENS, for her leadership and for listening to all the veterans and getting this piece of legislation to the floor today. She has listened to them. We will shortly share this facility. It will be in my district, but the veterans will live in both of our districts.

The recent opening of a new community-based outpatient clinic in Canton reaffirms our commitment to Michigan veterans so that they can access the care and support that they need closer to home. It will serve many veterans in southeast Michigan.

This legislation would rename the Canton CBOC in honor of Major Gen-

eral Oliver W. Dillard, a veteran and a trailblazer who served the Nation for 34 years.

After being drafted to Germany to serve in World War II, Major General Dillard went on to be the first Black officer to graduate from the National War College. Throughout his esteemed career, he earned nine military awards and two civilian medals.

Major General Dillard retired from military service in 1980 and resided in Canton, Michigan, until he passed. The veterans themselves from this community and beyond wanted this center to be named after him.

I am so proud to have worked on this important bipartisan legislation with my colleague, Representative STEVENS. I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

My colleague and I were there when it had the soft opening. If you could have seen his family and his colleagues, the veterans he served with, with tears in their eyes, you would know why this has meaning.

I thank the Michigan delegation for supporting this effort, and I thank leadership for advancing this to the floor.

Naming the Canton clinic after Major General Dillard means his story and life will continue to inspire generations to come.

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS), another very good friend, who is the author of this legislation. She serves on the Education and Labor Committee, on which I also serve, and as the chairwoman of the Research and Technology Subcommittee on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to stand before you today to pay tribute to the heroes who have gone before us and the heroes who walk among us, our veterans. It is also an honor to be here with my legislation under the great leadership of the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, who leads us so well here in the Congress.

I rise in support of my bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Canton, Michigan, as the Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Outpatient Clinic.

Major General Dillard was a trailblazer who exemplified what it means to be an exceptional serviceman. He began his 34-year military career in 1945 when he was assigned to the 349th Field Artillery Group in Germany as part of the World War II army of occupation.

Following his time in Europe, he attended the infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, where he received a commission as second lieutenant of infantry. In following years, he continued to climb the ladder.

In 1958, Major General Dillard graduated from the Army Command and

General Staff College, where he was one of only three Black officers in his class.

In 1965, Major General Dillard made history by becoming the first Black officer to graduate from the National War College. He later served in command and intelligence positions in Korea, Germany, and Vietnam, a most remarkable career.

This includes as the first Black general officer in the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff of Intelligence, as deputy chief of staff to the U.S. Army Forces Command, and as deputy chief of staff of intelligence for the U.S. Armed Forces in Europe.

During his extraordinary 34 years of service, Major General Dillard received nine military awards and two civilian medals, including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge with star.

He retired from military service in 1980 and later passed away in 2015 in Canton, Michigan, where this VA outpatient clinic will reside and where his son, Oliver, still resides.

Earlier this year, I had the privilege of touring this facility alongside the Dillard family, with my incredible colleague and champion for this legislation, Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL, who will be representing Canton in this upcoming Congress.

The naming of the Canton VA clinic is just a small token of our appreciation and recognition to Major General Dillard for his exemplary service, leadership, and sacrifice to our Nation.

I know that this VA clinic will serve as a proud commemoration of the man who dedicated his life to serving others and as an inspiration to those who will continue to hear his name.

I thank both the Dillard family—in specific, his son, Oliver—and Congresswoman DINGELL for their work and input on this legislation.

I also thank Canton Township Supervisor Anne Marie Graham-Hudak for her leadership in getting the VA outpatient clinic to its current place.

I also thank our entire Michigan delegation, as well as the Michigan American Legion, the Michigan Disabled American Veterans, and the Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars, for their support on this bill.

I thank my colleagues for their consideration of this bill.

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

□ 1500

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

I am going to go off script for a moment here and just say that the more I hear about these veterans that we are honoring here today, they are just incredible. I want to know more about Major General Dillard and his Bronze Star, Silver Star, and Purple Heart.

As we are on the heels of Veterans Day this last weekend, the remarkable bravery that General Dillard must

have shown to receive those awards is staggering, and I would like to come up and see the clinic in Michigan at some point just to honor the man and meet his family.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I share the sentiment of my colleague from Texas. You cannot be indifferent to the stories as we read the accounts of these great American heroes. I am personally affected by the part of Major General Dillard's history in terms of his opposition to Don't Ask, Don't Tell way before it was overturned. The fact that he himself knew the sting of discrimination and could not brook that this discrimination would apply to any other group of Americans is especially poignant to me.

I thank the gentlewoman from Michigan for bringing Major General Dillard to our attention to memorialize him in the way that she has done.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 7903, as amended. 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 California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7903, as amended.

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

The title of H.R. 7903 was amended so as to read: "A bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic located in Canton, Michigan, as the 'Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Clinic'."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SY KAPLAN VETERANS CENTER

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7925) to designate the outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Palm Desert, California, as the "Sy Kaplan Veterans Center", as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7925

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Seymour "Sy" Kaplan was born on February 28, 1924.

(2) Sergeant Kaplan served in the United States Army from 1942 to 1945 as a combat engineer.

(3) Sergeant Kaplan served in the 2d, 4th, and 14th Armored Divisions, seeing service in North Africa, Italy, and France.

(4) Sergeant Kaplan rose to the rank of Technical Sergeant and earned 3 Battle Stars and 2 Purple Hearts.

(5) Sergeant Kaplan served under General George Patton at the Battle of the Bulge and received 2 Purple Hearts for his service.

(6) In April 1945, Sergeant Kaplan was grievously wounded in an enemy mortar attack in Czechoslovakia and returned to the United States a wounded warrior.

(7) Sergeant Kaplan served as Commander of the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 78 (Coachella Valley) for many years.

(8) Sergeant Kaplan was instrumental in the opening of the Department of Veterans Affairs clinic in Palm Desert.

(9) Sergeant Kaplan personally provided countless local veterans with advice and assistance in obtaining their earned Department of Veterans Affairs benefits.

(10) Sergeant Kaplan received the Senior Inspiration Award from Riverside County Supervisor Roy Wilson in 2001.

(11) Wilson also appointed Sergeant Kaplan the first chair of the Desert Palms Community Council.

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC LOCATED IN PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic located in Palm Desert, California, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Sy Kaplan VA Clinic".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Sy Kaplan VA Clinic".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 7925, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Technical Sergeant Seymour "Sy" Kaplan, a wounded warrior, a World War II veteran, and a decades-long advocate for other veterans living in the Coachella Valley of southern California.

I thank my colleague, a fellow Californian and member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Dr. RAUL RUIZ, for his work on this bill, which will designate a brand-new VA outpatient clinic in Palm Desert, California, the Sy Kaplan VA Clinic.

The state-of-the-art Palm Desert clinic provides primary care, behavioral health services, and preventative medicine to thousands of veterans in the Inland Empire as part of VA's Loma Linda Healthcare System.

Sergeant Kaplan enlisted in the military in 1942 and served overseas as a combat engineer in northern Africa, Italy, and France. He fought under

General Patton in the Battle of the Bulge, which helped ensure Allied victory in the Second World War. In 1945, he was seriously wounded by an enemy mortar attack during a bridge-building mission in Czechoslovakia.

For his heroism, Sergeant Kaplan earned three battle stars and two Purple Hearts and returned home 100 percent disabled.

His injuries did not impede Sergeant Kaplan's unwavering commitment to our Nation's veterans, however. For 25 years, he served as commander of Disabled American Veterans Chapter 78 in the Coachella Valley. In this role, Sergeant Kaplan assisted countless veterans, helping ease their transition back to civilian life and providing them with a tight-knit sense of community.

His passion, leadership, and sense of purpose were evident to all who knew him.

Following a lifetime of service, Sergeant Kaplan passed away in April 2019, not long after celebrating his 95th birthday. His legacy continues, however, in the grateful community of those whose lives he touched.

I am happy to know that for generations of veterans to come, this VA facility will honor Sergeant Kaplan's memory.

H.R. 7925, as amended, has been endorsed by The American Legion, DAV, and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters of support for H.R. 1925 from The American Legion, VFW, and Disabled American Veterans, as well as the California delegation.

THE AMERICAN LEGION,
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA,
Sanger, CA, July 18, 2022.

Hon. RAUL RUIZ, M.D.,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN RUIZ: On behalf of The American Legion, Department of California, we thank you for your continued leadership in advocating for the more than 120,000 veterans living in Riverside County. TAL Department of California is proud to support your legislation, designating the outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Palm Desert, California, as the, Sy Kaplan Veterans Center".

By naming the Palm Desert outpatient clinic after United States Army Technical Sergeant, Seymour "Sy" Kaplan, not only memorializes his contributions and sacrifices made fighting in North Africa, Italy and France during World War II, but also underscores his significant contributions towards Veterans Advocacy in the Palm Desert area. This advocacy was instrumental in the opening of the very VA clinic your legislation hopes to name after him.

Thank you again for your leadership and advocacy of all veterans. TAL Department of California recognizes all the work that went into this effort and wholeheartedly supports this legislation. Moreover, we hope this bill will be passed and signed into law most expeditiously.

Sincerely,

JERE ROMANO, COMMANDER,
The American Legion Department
of California.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS,
June 6, 2022.

Rep. RAUL RUIZ,
Washington DC.

DEAR HON. REPRESENTATIVE RUIZ, MD: The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of California takes great pleasure in supporting your bill to name the VA's Outpatient Clinic building in Palm Desert, CA as the Sy Kaplan Veterans Center.

Sergeant Kaplan's service to our country in WWII is impressive. He not only gave his all during his service, but he also continued that back at home in service to veterans and with the same commitment. His legacy is worthy of and in line with this Department's desires to pay honor to our servicemen and women by naming California veteran facilities after them.

On behalf of the 61,000+ combat veterans of this Department, we thank you for recognizing our nation's heroes.

Sincerely,

DAWN M. NAPIER,
State Commander.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS,
San Diego, CA, December 5, 2021.

Hon. RAUL RUIZ M.D.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN RUIZ: I am writing this letter of endorsement to rename the Desert Clinic the Seymour (Sy) Kaplan Desert Clinic. This is an Honor he richly deserves. Mr. Kaplan, a force to be reckoned with, was the catalyst in the establishment of the clinic. His tireless commitment to all veterans was inspiring. A highly decorated war hero, Mr. Kaplan spent a lifetime giving to the veteran community, not only in the desert community but the State of California.

I thank you in advance for all your consideration in this matter.

NANCY CASEY,
Department of California DAV, Jr. Vice
Commander, National Service Officer,
Disabled American Veterans.

NOVEMBER 1, 2022.

Hon. JON TESTER,
Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, U.S.
Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. JERRY MORAN,
Ranking Member, Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TESTER AND RANKING MEMBER MORAN: We write in support of H.R. 7925, legislation to rename the Palm Desert Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) outpatient clinic after Sy Kaplan.

Sy Kaplan served in the U.S. Army from 1942 to 1945 as a combat engineer. He rose to the rank of Technical Sergeant and earned three Battle Stars and two Purple Hearts. In April 1945 he was grievously wounded in an enemy mortar attack in Czechoslovakia and returned to the U.S. a wounded warrior.

When he retired, Mr. Kaplan served as Commander of the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 78 (Coachella Valley) for many years, where he personally provided countless local veterans with advice and assistance in obtaining their earned VA benefits. Additionally, he was instrumental in the opening of the VA Clinic in Palm Desert which we wish to name in his honor.

Mr. Kaplan was recognized for his work within his community and received the Senior Inspiration Award from Riverside County Supervisor Roy Wilson in 2001 and was appointed the first chair of the Desert Palms Community Council.

We hope that you will swiftly advance H.R. 7925 to recognize this true war hero and pillar of the community by supporting our bill

to rename the Palm Desert VA outpatient clinic the Sy Kaplan Veterans Center.

Sincerely,

Raul Ruiz, M.D., Dianne Feinstein, Alex Padilla, Kevin McCarthy, Mark Takano, Jared Huffman, Ami Bera, M.D., Nancy Pelosi, Doug LaMalfa, Mike Thompson, Jay Obernolte, Jerry McNerney, Mark DeSaulnier, Jackie Speier, Jim Costa, Anna G. Eshoo, Josh Harder, Barbara Lee, Eric Swalwell, Ro Khanna, Zoe Lofgren; Members of Congress.

Salud Carbajal, Brad Sherman, Grace F. Napolitano, Karen Bass, Ken Calvert, Judy Chu, Pete Aguilar, Norma J. Torres, Lucille Roybal-Allard, Katie Porter, J. Luis Correa, Michelle Steel, Juan Vargas, Darrell Issa, Linda T. Sanchez, Alan S. Lowenthal, Mike Levin, Scott H. Peters, David G. Valadao, Doris Matsui; Members of Congress.

Jimmy Gomez, Mike Garcia, Adam B. Schiff, John Garamendi, Maxine Waters, Jimmy Panetta, Ted Lieu, Tony Cardenas, Tom McClintock, Young Kim, Julia Brownley, Connie Conway; Members of Congress.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, again, I thank Dr. RUIZ and all of our fellow members of the California delegation for their support of this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7925, as amended, a bill to designate the outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Palm Desert California as the Sy Kaplan Veterans Center.

Sy Kaplan enlisted in the Army at age 18. He served in World War II as a combat engineer in the 2nd, 4th, and 14th Armored Divisions during the North Africa campaign and the liberation of Italy and in France. In that service, he earned three battle stars and two Purple Hearts. He rose to the rank of technical sergeant.

At the end of the war, in 1945, he was seriously wounded by an enemy mortar attack in the former Czechoslovakia and returned to the United States due to his injuries.

Following his return, he started and operated his own construction company. He retired in 1991 and moved to California, as everybody did.

Sergeant Kaplan embraced his new community, where he personally provided countless local veterans with advice and assistance in obtaining and earning their VA benefits.

He served as the commander of the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 78 in Coachella Valley for many years, and, of course, he played an instrumental role in establishing the VA clinic in Palm Desert.

Sergeant Kaplan dedicated his life to service and, most importantly, to helping his fellow veterans. Having his name on this VA clinic will continue his legacy of inspiration.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 7925, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7925, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic located in Palm Desert, California, as the 'Sy Kaplan VA Clinic'."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MAX CLELAND VA MEDICAL CENTER ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3369) to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in metropolitan Atlanta, Georgia, as the "Joseph Maxwell Cleland Atlanta Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3369

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 "Max Cleland VA Medical Center Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Joseph Maxwell Cleland was born August 24, 1942, in Atlanta, Georgia, the child of Juanita Kesler Cleland and Joseph Hughie Cleland, a World War II veteran, and grew up in Lithonia, Georgia.

(2) Joseph Maxwell Cleland graduated from Stetson University in Florida in 1964, and received his Master's Degree in history from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

(3) Following his graduation from Stetson University, Joseph Maxwell Cleland received a Second Lieutenant's Commission in the Army through its Reserve Officers' Training Corps program.

(4) Joseph Maxwell Cleland volunteered for duty in the Vietnam War in 1967, serving with the 1st Cavalry Division.

(5) On April 8, 1968, during combat at the mountain base at Khe Sanh, Joseph Maxwell Cleland was gravely injured by the blast of a grenade, eventually losing both his legs and right arm.

(6) Joseph Maxwell Cleland was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service and the Silver Star for gallantry in action.

(7) In 1970, Joseph Maxwell Cleland was elected to the Georgia Senate as the youngest member and the only Vietnam veteran, where he served until 1975.

(8) As a Georgia State Senator, Joseph Maxwell Cleland authored and advanced legislation to ensure access to public facilities in Georgia for elderly and handicapped individuals.

(9) In 1976, Joseph Maxwell Cleland began serving as a staffer on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the United States Senate.

(10) In 1977, Joseph Maxwell Cleland was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to lead the Veterans Administration.

(11) He was the youngest Administrator of the Veterans Administration ever and the first Vietnam veteran to head the agency.

(12) He served as a champion for veterans and led the Veterans Administration to recognize, and begin to treat, post-traumatic stress disorder in veterans suffering the invisible wounds of war.

(13) Joseph Maxwell Cleland was elected in 1982 as Secretary of State of Georgia, the youngest individual to hold the office, and served in that position for 14 years.

(14) In 1996, Joseph Maxwell Cleland was elected to the United States Senate representing Georgia.

(15) As a member of the Committee on Armed Services, Joseph Maxwell Cleland advocated for Georgia's military bases, members of the Armed Forces, and veterans, including by championing key personnel issues, playing a critical role in the effort to allow members of the Armed Forces to pass their GI Bill education benefits to their children, and establishing a new veterans cemetery in Canton, Georgia.

(16) In 2002, Joseph Maxwell Cleland was appointed to the 9/11 Commission.

(17) In 2003, Joseph Maxwell Cleland was appointed by President George W. Bush to the Board of Directors for the Export-Import Bank of the United States, where he served until 2007.

(18) In 2009, Joseph Maxwell Cleland was appointed by President Barack Obama as Secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission overseeing United States military cemeteries and monuments overseas, where he served until 2017.

(19) In 2010, Joseph Maxwell Cleland was appointed Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery, where he served until 2017.

(20) Joseph Maxwell Cleland authored three books: *Strong at the Broken Places*, *Going for the Max: 12 Principles for Living Life to the Fullest*, and *Heart of a Patriot*.

(21) Joseph Maxwell Cleland received numerous honors and awards over the course of his long and distinguished career.

(22) Joseph Maxwell Cleland was a patriot, veteran, and lifelong civil servant who proudly served Georgia, the United States, and all veterans and members of the Armed Forces of the United States.

(23) On November 9, 2021, at the age of 79, Joseph Maxwell Cleland died, leaving behind a legacy of service, sacrifice, and joy.

SEC. 3. JOSEPH MAXWELL CLELAND ATLANTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in metropolitan Atlanta, Georgia, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Joseph Maxwell Cleland Atlanta Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center" or the "Joseph Maxwell Cleland Atlanta VA Medical Center".

(b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in a law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the medical center referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Joseph Maxwell Cleland Atlanta Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to

revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on S. 3369.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my support for S. 3369, a bill that will appropriately rename the Atlanta VA Medical Center in Decatur, Georgia, in honor of Joseph Maxwell Cleland, an Army veteran, an American statesman, and a distinguished public servant for more than 50 years.

Senator Cleland, who died a year ago this month, long displayed a commitment to assisting disabled American veterans, so it is fitting that part of his enduring legacy includes the naming of this facility, which provides care to so many Georgia men and women who raised their hands and answered the call to serve.

I thank Senator RAPHAEL WARNOCK for championing this legislation, which unanimously passed the Senate this summer, and I also acknowledge the work of my colleague Representative NIKEMA WILLIAMS for introducing a House companion to the bill.

Senator Cleland was born in Atlanta in 1942 and raised a couple of hours away in Lithonia, Georgia. He was an exemplary student at Lithonia High School and went on to study American history at Stetson University in central Florida and Emory University in Atlanta.

Senator Cleland received a military commission through Stetson's ROTC program. He volunteered for service in the Vietnam war in 1967 and was promoted to Army captain.

On April 8, 1968, with a month left on his tour, Senator Cleland and other members of the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment were dropped by helicopter on a hillside outside Khe Sanh to set up a radio relay station. Senator Cleland reached down to pick up a grenade he thought had fallen from his flak jacket when the grenade exploded, causing several injuries to his lower body. Both of Senator Cleland's legs and his right forearm were amputated, and the Senator, then just 25 years old, used a wheelchair for the rest of his life.

For his meritorious service and gallantry in action, Senator Cleland was awarded the Bronze and Silver Stars.

Upon his return to the U.S., Senator Cleland was elected to the Georgia Senate, becoming the youngest member and only Vietnam veteran in that body.

In 1976, he was appointed to the staff of the U.S. Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, where he investigated hospitals in the Veterans Administration healthcare system and their treatment of wounded servicemembers returning from Vietnam.

The following year, at age 34, President Carter tapped Senator Cleland to head the Veterans Administration,

making him the youngest administrator in VA history and the first Vietnam veteran to serve in this role.

As VA administrator, Senator Cleland was instrumental in creating the Vet Center program, which decades later still provides a wide range of counseling services to veterans who experience trauma, loss, grief, and pain as a result of their military service. In doing so, Senator Cleland saved and improved the lives of an untold number of veterans. He advanced the conversation around the unseen wounds of war and helped reduce the stigma that all too often surrounds a veteran who seeks needed mental health care.

Following 12 years of service as Georgia's Secretary of State, Senator Cleland was elected to the United States Senate in 1996.

As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator Cleland continued to be a forceful advocate for veterans and sought to improve military recruitment and retention, pay, and compensation, and pension and health benefits.

He played a critical role in the effort to allow former servicemembers to pass unused GI Bill benefits on to their dependent children, an initiative that has given generations of veteran families the opportunity to receive an affordable education.

Following his electoral defeat in 2002, Senator Cleland was appointed to the 9/11 Commission but resigned shortly thereafter and was critical of the George W. Bush administration's lack of transparency regarding key documents and government witnesses the Commission requested.

In 2009, President Obama selected Senator Cleland to lead the American Battle Monuments Commission, an independent government agency that manages 26 American cemeteries and 30 memorials, monuments, and markers abroad.

For those who have not visited any of these sites, I highly recommend that you do so.

□ 1515

This past Memorial Day, I led a congressional delegation to two ABMC cemeteries: the North Africa American Cemetery in Tunisia and the Cambridge American Cemetery in the United Kingdom. These sites serve as a solemn reminder of those who made the ultimate sacrifice to our Nation during the First and Second World Wars, and they truly uphold the words of General John J. Pershing, Commander of the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I and the first chairman of the ABMC who promised that, through these monuments, "time will not dim the glory of their deeds."

It is my hope that the same will be true in naming this hospital, one of the largest in the VA healthcare system, in Senator Cleland's memory.

S. 3369 has been strongly endorsed by The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Disabled American Vet-

erans, and I implore all of my colleagues to pass this bill today without further delay.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank Senator WARNOCK and Representative WILLIAMS for proposing this legislation and for their tireless work on behalf of our Nation's veterans.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3369, a bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Atlanta, Georgia, as the Max Cleland VA Medical Center.

Joseph Maxwell Cleland was born in 1942 in Atlanta, Georgia. Through his storied career, he always returned to his native State. Immediately after college, Max Cleland received his second lieutenant's commission in the Army. He volunteered for duty in the Vietnam war, serving with the 1st Cavalry Division.

In 1968, during the Battle of Khe Sanh, then-Captain Cleland, upon landing on a nearby hill to set up a radio relay station, was gravely injured by an accidental blast of a team member's grenade. He eventually lost both legs and his right arm.

While serving, he earned the Bronze Star for meritorious service and the Silver Star for gallantry in action, in addition to the Purple Heart.

Returning to his home State, Max Cleland continued his service and was elected to the Georgia Senate as the youngest member and then the only Vietnam veteran. He became known as a staunch advocate for increasing public access for handicapped individuals as well as for his fellow veterans.

In 1977, Max Cleland was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to lead the Veterans Administration, the first Vietnam veteran to lead the agency. He was instrumental in transforming the way the Veterans Administration recognized and treated post-traumatic stress disorder in veterans suffering from the invisible wounds of war. After that assignment, he served as the secretary of state for Georgia for 14 years, and then he was elected to the United States Senate representing Georgia.

In this position, and in numerous subsequent assignments, he never forgot his fellow brothers and sisters in arms. He made it his life's work to champion military personnel matters and to honor the fallen at military cemeteries and monuments overseas and veteran cemeteries at home.

In spite of many physical challenges, Max Cleland received numerous honors and awards over the course of his long and distinguished career.

His spirit served as an inspiration, and that same spirit will continue to inspire excellence at the Atlanta VA Medical Center which should proudly bear his name.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Geor-

gia (Mr. BISHOP). Chairman SANFORD BISHOP is a very good friend who serves as a subcommittee chair on the Appropriations Committee. He is a cardinal and also a former member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

This is a wonderful opportunity for me to come and to congratulate the chair, my colleague, Senator WARNOCK, and my colleague, NIKEMA WILLIAMS, for the naming of the VA Medical Center of Atlanta the Joseph Maxwell Cleland Atlanta Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Senator Cleland and I were friends. He was my friend, he was my mentor, and he was truly an inspiration.

I had the opportunity to know him. He served as secretary of state for the State of Georgia for 12 years. During that time, I was in the Georgia General Assembly. When he was elected to the United States Senate in 1996, I had the occasion to be a colleague with him as I was a Member of the House of Representatives.

He truly represented and embodied what it meant to be a veteran: service and sacrifice.

He was a triple amputee because of his wounds in Vietnam as a veteran and, of course, he was appointed by President Carter to head the VA. Of course, he served as the head of the American Battle Monuments Commission and I, as a member of the Military Construction/Veterans' Affairs Committee, had to work with him in making sure that these monuments were well-funded and well-maintained. He did a tremendous job.

Mr. Speaker, I had to come and speak because he was my friend, and he was my colleague and my inspiration. It is very, very fitting that this facility should be named for him because of his legacy.

Longfellow wrote:

"Lives of great men all remind us, we can make our lives sublime, and, departing, leave behind us, footprints on the sands of time."

Senator Cleland lost both legs and an arm, but the footprints that he left and is leaving are his legacy for veterans that will be there forever. I am happy to urge my colleagues to support this legislation which appropriately names the facility in his honor.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his very heartfelt remarks, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I will just say that I take note that Senator Cleland had much to do with the establishment of vet centers. I know from the experience of my own veterans how much vet centers make a difference in their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters of support for S. 3369 from The

American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Disabled American Veterans, as well as the Georgia delegation.

THE AMERICAN LEGION,
DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA,
Stockbridge, GA, May 16, 2022.

Representative NIKEMA WILLIAMS,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.
Senator Reverend RAPHAEL WARNOCK,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS AND SENATOR WARNOCK: The American Legion Department of Georgia is in full support of H.R. 6244 and S. 3369: the Max Cleland VA Medical Center Act.

We respectfully implore and sincerely request that the U.S. Congress rename the Atlanta Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center as: "The Joseph Maxwell Cleland Atlanta Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center."

Senator Cleland's distinguished service and noble legacy are still remembered by his fellow Georgians, the nation, and the countless veterans whose lives were greatly improved as a result of his commitment to better healthcare and veterans' services. Renaming the Atlanta VA Medical Center is but a fraction of the tremendous gratitude that our U.S. Congress can do to honor a true champion of veteran affairs.

For God and Country. . .

MARK SHREVE,
State Commander,
Department of Georgia.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS,
April 18, 2022.

Hon. NIKEMA WILLIAMS,
U.S. Representative (GA-05),
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS: On Behalf of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Georgia and as Commander of the Department of Georgia (2021-2022), I am writing to support the legislation as proposed by Representative Williams and Senator Warnock (H.R. 6244/S.3369), that will rename the Atlanta Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, to the Joseph Maxwell Cleland Atlanta Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

KEVIN HAMMOND,
Commander Department of Georgia.

DAV,
April 13, 2022.

REF: Support of Renaming Atlanta VA Medical Center

Matt Alexis,
Legislative Assistant,
REP. NIKEMA WILLIAMS (GA-05).

GEORGIA DELEGATION IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS: U.S. Representative Nikema Williams and Senator Rev. Raphael Warnock introduced (H.R. 6244/S. 3369) which will name the Atlanta Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Atlanta, Georgia, "the Joseph Maxwell Cleland Atlanta Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center."

Disabled American Veterans Department of Georgia gives our full support in naming the Atlanta VAMC for the late Senator Joseph Maxwell Cleland.

Senator Cleland distinguished himself with numerous meritorious accolades during his lifetime. Naming the Medical center in his honor would be a tribute to his life's work for veterans.

Thank you to his family and friends and for your service to this country.

Sincerely,

SADIE HILL,
Sr. Vice Commander.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, July 7, 2022.

Hon. JON TESTER,
Chairman, Committee on Veterans Affairs,
Washington, DC.
Hon. JERRY MORAN,
Ranking Member, Committee on Veterans Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TESTER AND RANKING MEMBER MORAN: We are writing to request your support to name the Atlanta Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Atlanta, Georgia, the Joseph Maxwell Cleland Atlanta Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Senator Max Cleland was a veteran who fought for veterans and whose efforts indelibly changed how our nation cares for veterans today. He volunteered for service in Vietnam in 1967 and suffered severe combat injuries in 1968, eventually losing three of his limbs. He was awarded the Bronze Star and Silver Star. In 1977, Senator Cleland was appointed by fellow-Georgian President Jimmy Carter to be the youngest ever Administrator of the Veterans Administration (VA). Because of his efforts, the VA revamped its care of the invisible wounds of veterans, recognized, and began to treat post-traumatic stress disorder.

Senator Cleland was also a tireless champion of Georgia and Georgians. Born in Atlanta and raised in Lithonia, he served as a Georgia State Senator, Georgia Secretary of State, and eventually U.S. Senator from Georgia. As a member of the Armed Services Committee, he fought for Georgia's military installations while also focused on the personnel needs of the military. Senator Cleland played a critical role in the expansion of GI Bill education benefits.

On November 9, 2021, at the age of 79, Senator Cleland died, leaving behind a legacy of service, sacrifice, and joy. He served Georgia, the nation, and, in particular, veterans continuously during his 50 years of public service, improving their lives in countless ways. We believe renaming the Atlanta VA Medical Center for Senator Cleland is most appropriate for a man who spent his life serving those who walk its halls. We hope that the Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs will give our request immediate consideration.

Sincerely,

Raphael Warnock, Jon Ossoff, Nikema Williams, Hank Johnson, Andrew S. Clyde, Lucy McBath, Austin Scott, David Scott, Barry Loudermilk, Carolyn Bourdeaux, Sanford D. Bishop Jr., A. Drew Ferguson IV, Earl L. "Buddy" Carter, Rick W. Allen, Majorie Taylor Greene, Jody Hice, Members of Congress.

Mr. TAKANO. So, Mr. Speaker, this is a fitting tribute. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing S. 3369, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. Once again, as we talk about heroism, you can't summarize in 3 minutes the heroism of these men. Max Cleland lost two legs and an arm, and this is a well-deserved honor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support 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 California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3369.

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. GOOD of Virginia. 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.

SENATOR JOHNNY ISAKSON VA REGIONAL OFFICE ACT OF 2022

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 4359) to designate the regional office of the Department of Veterans Affairs in metropolitan Atlanta as the "Senator Johnny Isakson Department of Veterans Affairs Atlanta Regional Office", and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 4359

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 "Senator Johnny Isakson VA Regional Office Act of 2022".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) John Hardy Isakson, known as "Johnny", was born December 28, 1944, in Atlanta, Georgia, to Julia Isakson and Edwin Andrew Isakson.

(2) Johnny Isakson graduated from the University of Georgia in 1966 with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration.

(3) In 1966, Johnny Isakson enlisted in the Georgia Air National Guard, serving until 1972 and attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant.

(4) Johnny Isakson gained success in private business, serving for 22 years as a real estate executive and growing his business into one of the largest of its kind in both Georgia and in the United States.

(5) Johnny Isakson was elected to the Georgia General Assembly in 1976, serving in the State House of Representatives until 1990.

(6) Johnny Isakson was elected to the Georgia State Senate in 1992, serving until 1996.

(7) In 1996, Governor Zell Miller appointed Johnny Isakson to be Chairman of the Georgia State Board of Education.

(8) Johnny Isakson was elected to represent the 6th District of Georgia in the United States House of Representatives in 1999, and served until 2005.

(9) During his time in the House of Representatives, Johnny Isakson, as a member of the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives, worked to improve American education, and was a key advocate for the bipartisan education reforms that became the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-110).

(10) Johnny Isakson was elected to the United States Senate in 2004, serving until December 31, 2019.

(11) During his time in the Senate, Johnny Isakson was an exemplar of courtesy, dignity, and kindness, beloved and respected by colleagues regardless of party.

(12) Johnny Isakson, during the 111th Congress, demonstrated a bipartisan yearning for peace, and crossed party lines to support the ratification of the 2010 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation, also known as New START.

(13) During the 114th, 115th, and 116th Congresses, Johnny Isakson served as Chairman

of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate, a position with which he tirelessly championed reform to improve the benefits and quality of service for our nation's military veterans.

(14) During the 114th, 115th, and 116th Congresses, Johnny Isakson served as Chairman of the Select Committee on Ethics of the Senate.

(15) The late Congressman John Lewis once described Johnny Isakson as "A man who has strong belief but also willing to work with others to get things done."

(16) On December 19, 2021, Johnny Isakson passed away, but his legacy of character and goodwill will endure as an example to all who serve, or will serve, in the United States Senate.

SEC. 3. SENATOR JOHNNY ISAKSON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ATLANTA REGIONAL OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Department of Veterans Affairs Atlanta Regional Office in Georgia shall, after the date of the enactment of this Act, be known and designated as the "Senator Johnny Isakson Department of Veterans Affairs Atlanta Regional Office" or the "Isakson VA Atlanta Regional Office".

(b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in a law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Regional Office referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Senator Johnny Isakson Department of Veterans Affairs Atlanta Regional Office.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on S. 4359.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, S. 4359, which will rename the VA regional office in metropolitan Atlanta the Senator Johnny Isakson Department of Veterans Affairs Atlanta Regional Office.

I knew Senator Isakson well from his years of service on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. Like many of my colleagues, my enduring memory of Senator Isakson is that he was a reasonable man, a tireless advocate for veterans, and was someone you could work with to find common ground—something that is all too rare in today's political environment.

I didn't always agree with Senator Isakson's politics, but I never once questioned his commitment to the men and women who have served in the U.S. military.

I worked closely with Senator Isakson on a number of significant bills, including a wide-ranging VA reform bill—the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014—that President Obama signed into law during my first term in office.

The bill expanded survivor benefits and educational opportunities and improved care for victims of sexual assault and veterans struggling with traumatic brain injuries while making important strides toward ensuring veterans' access to timely healthcare at VA medical centers.

Senator Isakson was heavily involved in other bipartisan initiatives affecting our Nation's veterans, including a 2017 law intended to improve processing of VA benefit appeals and a 2018 law giving VA the authority to expand healthcare access to community providers.

These pieces of legislation will have a profound impact on veterans' access to the benefits and services they rightfully earned for generations to come, and we owe Senator Isakson a debt of gratitude for his persistent efforts in seeing these bills through.

Senator Isakson was a veteran himself, having served as a young man in the Georgia Air National Guard from 1966 to 1972. He ran his family's real estate business for over two decades and ably represented his constituents in the Georgia House of Representatives and the Georgia Senate before serving in the U.S. House and Senate.

He has the distinction of being the longest-serving Republican Senator in Georgia history, and, at a personal level, I cannot think of a more suitable name for this VA facility—where so many civil servants work to provide veterans the benefits they earned—than the Johnny Isakson Regional Office.

S. 4359 was introduced by Senator JON OSSOFF, while the House companion was led by Representative SANFORD BISHOP of Georgia's Second Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters of support for H.R. 4359 from The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Disabled American Veterans, as well as the Georgia delegation.

THE AMERICAN LEGION,
DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA,
June 14, 2022.

Hon. JON TESTER,
Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

Hon. MARK TAKANO,
Chairman, U.S. House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

Hon. JERRY MORAN,
Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

Hon. MIKE BOST,
Ranking Member, U.S. House Committee on Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC.

DEAR HONORABLE GENTLEMEN OF THE U.S. CONGRESS: The American Legion Department of Georgia is in full support of S-4359: the Senator Johnny Isakson VA Regional Act of 2022.

We respectfully implore and sincerely request that the U.S. Congress favorably considers naming the regional office of the Department of Veterans Affairs in metropolitan Atlanta as the "Senator Johnny Isakson Department of Veterans Affairs Atlanta Regional Office".

Senator Isakson's distinguished himself as a tireless and unrelenting advocate who

championed reform to improve the benefits and quality of service for our Nation's veterans. It is our solid and steadfast position that this Act will be the hallmark tribute to a fellow Georgian who labored to bring about better and improved healthcare and quality veterans' services. We are indebted to our veterans for their service and sacrifice. Senator Isakson recognized the debt and devoted his efforts as Chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate "to make right the master of might".

Naming the Atlanta VA Regional Office in honor of Senator Isakson is a step in the right direction for the sake of veterans of the great State of Georgia and the veterans across this great Nation.

For God and Country. . .

MARK SHREVE,
(For Z.C. Debro, Dept. Adjutant),
State Commander, Department of Georgia.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS,
Macon, Georgia, May 31, 2022.

Hon. MARK TAKANO,
Chairman, U.S. House Committee on Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC.

CHAIRMAN TAKANO: On behalf of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Georgia and in my capacity as State Commander, I am writing to support renaming the Atlanta VA Regional Office to the "Senator Johnny Isakson Department of Veterans Affairs Atlanta Regional Office."

As a member and former chair of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, Senator Isakson worked tirelessly to bring oversight and accountability to the agency responsible for providing care and support to our nation's veterans. A veteran himself, Isakson was a member of the Senate VA Committee since joining the Senate in 2005 and played a crucial role in the massive VA reform bill, the Veterans' Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014.

Today, Georgia remains home to more than a dozen military bases, as well as more than 750,000 veterans. In addition to aiding veterans who served in years past, he has worked to strengthen our Armed Forces and continues to show unwavering commitment to the men and women serving our country today. Isakson brought commonsense leadership to Congress through bipartisan efforts to address federal spending, reduce the debt, create jobs, and reform burdensome federal regulations.

If the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Georgia may assist in any way to rename the Atlanta VA Regional Office to the "Senator Johnny Isakson Department of Veterans Affairs Atlanta Regional Office," please do not hesitate to ask.

Respectfully,

KEVIN F. HAMMOND,
VFW Department of Georgia,
State Commander.

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS,
June 6, 2022.

Hon. JON TESTER,
Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

Hon. MARK TAKANO,
Chairman, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

Hon. JERRY MORAN,
Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

Hon. MIKE BOST,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TESTER, RANKING MEMBER MORAN, CHAIRMAN TAKANO AND RANKING MEMBER BOST: The Disabled American Veterans, Department of Georgia writes in support of legislation sponsored by Senators Jon Ossoff, Roy Blunt, and Raphael Warnock, renaming the Department of Veterans Affairs

Atlanta Regional Office, as the "Senator Johnny Isakson Department of Veterans Affairs Atlanta Regional Office."

Throughout his career, Senator Isakson was a passionate advocate for veterans in Georgia and across the country. Senator Isakson served in the Georgia Air National Guard from 1966 to 1972. Throughout his political career he found common ground across the aisle in order to achieve progress, all the while governing with compassion. As a longtime member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs he worked to serve veterans and increase accountability at the Department of Veterans Affairs. As Chairman of the committee, he championed VA reforms that culminated in the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020.

We believe that naming the VA Atlanta Regional Office after Senator Isakson, a dedicated advocate and public servant, will honor his legacy and inspire future generations of Georgians.

Sincerely,

SADIE HILL,
Commander.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, June 15, 2022.

Hon. JON TESTER,
Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

Hon. MARK TAKANO,
Chairman, U.S. House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

Hon. JERRY MORAN,
Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

Hon. MIKE BOST,
Ranking Member, U.S. House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TESTER, RANKING MEMBER MORAN, CHAIRMAN TAKANO, AND RANKING MEMBER BOST: As members of the Georgia congressional delegation, we write to request your support for legislation to name the Department of Veterans Affairs Atlanta Regional Office the, "Senator Johnny Isakson Department of Veterans Affairs Atlanta Regional Office."

Senator Johnny Isakson served veterans, the state of Georgia, and the United States throughout his life. A native of Atlanta and a graduate of the University of Georgia, Senator Isakson served in the Georgia Air National Guard from 1966 to 1972. Following a successful business career, he served in the Georgia General Assembly and Georgia State Senate for nearly two decades, served as Chairman of the State Board of Education, and was elected to the United States House of Representatives.

In 2004, Senator Isakson was elected to the United States Senate. During his fifteen years in the chamber, he earned a reputation for courtesy, dignity, and kindness, building relationships across the aisle for the good of the country. Eventually, Senator Isakson rose to Chair the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, a role in which he championed important reforms to improve the quality and accessibility of services for our nation's military veterans.

We believe that Senator Isakson's service to the veterans of Georgia warrants this tremendous recognition, and that naming this facility is a fitting tribute to his legacy. Accordingly, we respectfully request the Senate and House Veterans' Affairs Committees' consideration and support of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Jon Ossoff, Sanford Bishop, Austin Scott, Buddy Carter, David Scott, Andrew Clyde, Raphael Warnock, Lucy McBath, Barry Loudermilk, Hank Johnson, Nikema Williams, Carolyn Bordeaux, Marjorie Taylor Greene, Rick Allen, Jody Hice, Drew Ferguson, Members of Congress.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 4359, a bill to designate the VA regional office in Atlanta as the Senator Johnny Isakson Department of Veterans Affairs Atlanta Regional Office.

Senator Isakson served over 45 years as a public servant. He retired in 2019 as the longest-serving Republican Senator from the great State of Georgia.

Senator Isakson is remembered for his contributions to the veteran community and to his home State.

His successful career of public service began when he joined the Georgia Air National Guard. After separating from the National Guard, he brought this invaluable experience to the Georgia General Assembly and to the U.S. Congress.

Senator Isakson was a dedicated advocate for our Nation's veterans, serving as chairman for the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee for three Congresses.

Under his chairmanship, our friends on the Senate VA Committee spearheaded the enactment of critical legislation such as the VA Mission Act, the Forever GI Bill, the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act, and the VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act.

Senator Isakson is remembered fondly by his colleagues as the embodiment of compassionate servant leadership. He had a reputation as a bipartisan Member who was willing to reach across the aisle for the good of his constituents. I can think of no better way to honor Senator Isakson's legacy to both the citizens of Georgia and the veteran community than by naming the Atlanta regional office after him.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) who serves as subcommittee chair on the Appropriations Committee and also as a former member of the House of Representatives House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

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

I am honored to speak in support of S. 4359 to rename the VA's Atlantic regional office after a good and great man, the late Senator Johnny Isakson.

This is a companion bill to one that I introduced in the House with my colleague across the aisle, Congressman RICK ALLEN, and which the entire Georgia congressional delegation cosponsored.

A son of Georgia, Johnny Isakson was born in Atlanta and graduated from the University of Georgia. He was first a businessman and then a public servant.

I served with him in the Georgia General Assembly and then in the United States Congress where he served as a Congressman and as a U.S. Senator.

We stood side by side in support of Georgia's military bases, families, and veterans. Together we worked on many projects to improve the lives of Georgians and Americans.

During his many years as a public servant and as the chair of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, he worked tirelessly on behalf of the Nation's most deserving citizens: our military veterans.

It is fitting that we are taking up consideration of this bill just as we conclude commemorating Veterans Day. One of the fundamental ways Congress can demonstrate its thanks to our veterans is to provide the care they have earned and deserved.

Renaming the VA facility in Atlanta after Senator Isakson is a fitting recognition of his service to our country and his lifelong work ensuring Congress upholds America's commitment to its veterans. I am proud to call Johnny a friend, and I know he continues to look down on us. I hope that we are inspired by his example to always give our best to our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill and to honor Johnny Isakson's legacy of service.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

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

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I encourage my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, again, I ask all my colleagues to join me in passing S. 4359, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 4359.

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. GOOD of Virginia. 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.

□ 1530

VA INFRASTRUCTURE POWERS EXCEPTIONAL RESEARCH ACT OF 2021

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5721) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve research conducted within the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5721

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 “VA Infrastructure Powers Exceptional Research Act of 2021” or the “VIPER Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. INAPPLICABILITY OF PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 120. Inapplicability of Paperwork Reduction Act

“Subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Paperwork Reduction Act’) shall not apply to research activities of the Department, including activities under subchapter V of chapter 73.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“120. Inapplicability of Paperwork Reduction Act.”.

SEC. 3. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—Chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subchapter:

“SUBCHAPTER V—RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**“§ 7381. Office of Research and Development**

“(a) OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—There is in the Veterans Health Administration an Office of Research and Development (in this section referred to as the ‘Office’).

“(b) PURPOSES.—The function of the Office is to serve veterans through a full spectrum of research (including pre-clinical, clinical, and health systems science), technology transfer, and application.

“(c) CHIEF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER.—The head of the Office is the Chief Research and Development Officer.

“(d) ORGANIZATION AND PERSONNEL.—The Office shall be organized in such manner, and its personnel shall perform such duties and have such titles, as the Secretary may prescribe.

“§ 7382. Research personnel

“(a) WAIVER OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL PERSONNEL ACT MOBILITY PROGRAM LIMITS.—The Secretary may waive the limit on the period and number of assignments required under section 3372(a) of title 5 with respect to an individual who performs research for the Department under the mobility program under subchapter VI of chapter 33 of such title (commonly referred to as the ‘Intergovernmental Personnel Act Mobility Program’).

“(b) OUTSIDE EARNED INCOME FOR RESEARCH FOR THE DEPARTMENT.—(1) Compensation from a nonprofit corporation established under subchapter IV of this chapter, or a university affiliated with the Department, may be paid, without regard to section 209 of title 18, to an employee described in paragraph (2), for research conducted pursuant to section 7303 of this title if—

“(A) the research has been approved in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Under Secretary for Health;

“(B) the employee conducts research under the supervision of personnel of the Department; and

“(C) the Secretary agreed to the terms of such compensation in writing.

“(2) An employee described in this subsection is an employee who has an appointment within the Department, whether with or without compensation, and without regard to the source of such compensation.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SUBCHAPTER V—RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

“7381. Office of Research and Development.
“7382. Research personnel.”.

SEC. 4. EXPANSION OF HIRING AUTHORITIES FOR CERTAIN CLASSES OF RESEARCH OCCUPATIONS.

Section 7401(3) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting “statisticians, economists, informaticists, data scientists, and” after “blind rehabilitation outpatient specialists.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5721, as amended.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5721, as amended, the VA Infrastructure Powers Exceptional Research Act of 2021, or VIPER Act, as amended, which I introduced with Ranking Member BOST.

This bipartisan bill was developed in consultation with scientific groups and veteran service organizations. It gives VA the additional authorities it needs to make its world-class research program even more efficient and innovative as it works to improve the lives of the veterans it serves.

It is no secret that VA research is a jewel in VA’s crown, and we need to ensure that VA can continue to be competitive in hiring the finest scientists to understand, prevent, and treat health challenges veterans face from the effects of military toxic exposures and chronic pain to post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury.

VA has told us and our Senate colleagues that it urgently needs the VIPER Act, especially to protect the nonprofit veterans research and education foundations so critical to the VA research enterprise.

VIPER is also endorsed by major VSOs, including The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Minority Veterans of America, Modern Military Association of America, and Wounded Warrior Project.

It has the strong endorsement of scientific organizations that support the VA research program, including the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, America Foundation for Suicide Prevention, American Heart Association, America Psychiatric Association, American Physiological Association, American Thoracic Society, Association of American Medical Colleges, Association of VA Psychologist Leaders, Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biol-

ogy, National Association of Veterans’ Research and Education Foundations, Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs, and Veterans Healthcare Policy Institute.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters from four of these organizations.

FRIENDS OF VA MEDICAL CARE
AND HEALTH RESEARCH,

November 5, 2021.

Hon. MARK TAKANO,

*Chair, Committee on Veterans’ Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

Hon. MIKE BOST,

*Ranking Member, Committee on Veterans’ Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN TAKANO AND RANKING MEMBER BOST: As members of the Friends of VA Medical Care and Health Research (FOVA) executive committee, we write to thank you for your legislation, the VA Infrastructure Powers Exceptional Research Act of 2021, or VIPER Act. The organizations represented by the FOVA executive committee are pleased to endorse this bill, which would provide added authority and resources to improve the VA Medical and Prosthetic Research program.

FOVA is a coalition founded over 30 years ago to ensure that America’s veterans receive high-quality health care supported by veteran-centric research conducted through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical and Prosthetic Research program. Today, FOVA is a diverse coalition representing nearly 100 national academic, medical, and scientific societies; health and patient advocacy groups; and veteran-focused associations. FOVA works in concert with the Independent Budget veterans service organizations.

We are pleased that Congress has worked over the last several years in a bipartisan, bicameral manner to support robust funding growth for VA research. Specifically, your legislation would add stability and efficiency for the VA research program by formally authorizing VA’s Office of Research and Development and excluding VA research from Paperwork Reduction Act requirements, better aligning VA with other federal research agencies. We also appreciate that the VIPER Act would work to enhance the diversity of the VA research workforce, increasing scientific opportunities and leading to improved health care for veterans.

While the VIPER Act takes important steps to strengthen the research program, additional infrastructure support for information technology and physical laboratory improvements continue to be necessary to ensure that VA researchers have access to the cutting-edge technology that yields state-of-the-art research and improved health outcomes. We understand that you remain abreast of these issues, and we stand ready to support any additional efforts you may undertake to address these important research needs.

Thank you again for your efforts. We look forward to working with you to continue this important work.

Sincerely,

THE FOVA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

ASSOCIATION OF
VA PSYCHOLOGIST LEADERS,

November 10, 2022.

The Association of VA Psychologist Leaders fully endorses H.R. 5721: To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve research conducted within the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes. We believe this will bring needed parity of private and public universities funding VA Researchers. Many important discoveries in health

care originated from VA research. If VA researchers are blocked from being compensated for their work, we will deprive Veterans and the broader American population of new advancements in healthcare. Further, limiting VA's research enterprise will diminish the its attractiveness to professional trainees and cause current staff to leave VA service.

We appreciate Chairman Takano and Ranking Member Bost for introducing this bill and we would like to offer our endorsement and support.

Sincerely,

MIKE MARTIN, PhD,
President, Association of
VA Psychologist Leaders.

AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR
SUICIDE PREVENTION,
November 11, 2022.

Hon. MARK TAKANO,
Chairman, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MIKE BOST,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TAKANO AND RANKING MEMBER BOST: On behalf of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), I am pleased to write in support of H.R. 5721, the VA Infrastructure Powers Exceptional Research (VIPER) Act of 2021. As you know, this important legislation will provide the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) with new authorities to facilitate research on Veterans' health outcomes, leading to better care for our nation's Veterans and service members.

Suicide is an ongoing public health crisis in the United States. The national suicide rate increased by 4% in 2021, reversing progress made in 2019 and 2020. Since the year 2000, the national suicide rate has increased by 30%, and suicide remains a leading cause of death in the United States. This crisis is tragically prevalent among Veterans, who face a significantly higher risk of suicide than their civilian counterparts. In 2020, 6,146 Veterans died by suicide, at a rate 57.3% higher than that of non-Veteran U.S. adults.

The VIPER Act will allow the VA to grow its research program, encourage more innovation and collaboration, and support the recruitment and retention of data scientists and researchers. By providing the VA with the research tools and resources it needs, the VIPER Act will improve the lives of Veterans and service members and help to prevent suicide among these populations.

We thank you for your ongoing leadership in support of Veterans and service members, and we urge the swift passage of this legislation.

Sincerely,

LAUREL STINE, J.D., M.A.,
Executive Vice President and Chief Policy Officer, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2022.

Hon. MARK TAKANO,
Chair, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JON TESTER,
Chair, Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MIKE BOST,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JERRY MORAN,
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIR TAKANO, RANKING MEMBER BOST, CHAIR TESTER, AND RANKING MEMBER MORAN: Thank you for your continued sup-

port of medical research addressing the health of America's veterans. We write respectfully to urge Congress to enact as soon as possible a bipartisan veterans bill that includes provisions from HR 5721, the VIPER Act that will allow research affiliations between nonprofit medical schools and Veterans' Affairs (VA) medical centers to continue without disruption. The VA recently issued guidance that prohibits VA employees involved in VA research from receiving compensation from outside sources, including a VA-affiliated Nonprofit Education and Research Corporation or an affiliated nonprofit medical school. This policy will be highly disruptive to thousands of research projects focused on improving veterans' health and led by VA scientists who hold joint appointments with nonprofit medical schools. A limited exception to allow outside compensation for VA researchers (enclosure) would provide stability for these important projects.

Across the country, VA medical centers are affiliated with nonprofit as well as public medical schools for the purpose of improving the quality of veterans' health care, to support medical education, and to foster medical research on conditions affecting veterans. Projects conducted at VA medical centers in partnership with medical schools are advancing new therapies and treatments for a wide range of health challenges, including cancer, diabetes, traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, and chronic pain. The importance of these affiliations was recently highlighted in a May statement for the record to your committees by the Association of American Medical Colleges, including a recommendation of swift passage of the VIPER Act.

These very productive affiliations between VA medical centers and medical schools are built around joint faculty appointments, in which faculty based at the VA often derive part of their salary from the academic institution, often through research grants from the National Institutes of Health or other sponsors. However, in January 2022, the VA General Counsel issued guidance, based on advice from the Department of Justice, stating that current federal law (18 USC 209) bars VA researchers from deriving any part of their research compensation from non-federal sources. If the new guidance were to take effect, VA-affiliated researchers across the country would be required to forego external sources of support (and thus take a cut in salary), curtail externally-funded research (including federally-funded projects), or attempt to relocate their clinical research sites from the VA to facilities on medical school campuses (which may not be possible in many cases due to space and logistical constraints). This has the potential to interrupt hundreds of millions of dollars invested in life-saving biomedical research for America's veterans.

The VA is trying to avoid a disruption of the medical research conducted at VA medical centers, but a full resolution requires legislation. We ask that you and your colleagues work quickly to pass a bipartisan veterans' legislative package that includes the relevant provisions of HR 5721 that will allow VA employees to receive outside compensation related to their clinical and research activities at VA medical centers. We are grateful for your attention to this issue and for your support of university research that benefits our veterans. We would be happy to discuss this further at your convenience or answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Paul Klotman, MD; President & CEO; Executive Dean, Baylor College of Medicine.

Karen H. Antman, MD; Provost, Boston University Medical Campus; Dean, Boston University School of Medicine.

Mukesh K. Jain, MD, FAHA; Dean of Medicine and Biological Sciences; The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

Stanton L. Gerson, MD; Dean, School of Medicine and Senior Vice President for Medical Affairs; Case Western Reserve University.

Katrina Armstrong, MD; Executive Vice President for Health and Biomedical Sciences; Dean of the Faculties of Health Sciences and the Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons; Columbia University Irving Medical Center.

Duane A. Compton, PhD; Dean, Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth.

Mary E. Klotman, MD; R.J. Reynolds Distinguished Professor of Medicine; Dean, Duke University School of Medicine; Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, Duke University; Chief Academic Officer, Duke University Health System.

Vikas P. Sukhatme, MD, ScD; Dean, Emory School of Medicine; Chief Academic Officer, Emory Healthcare.

Barbara Lee Bass, MD, FACS; Professor of Surgery and Dean; School of Medicine and Health Sciences; George Washington University.

George Q. Daley, MD, PhD; Dean of the Faculty of Medicine; Harvard University.

Joseph E. Kerschner, MD; Provost and Executive Vice President; The Julia A. Uihlein, MA, Dean of the School of Medicine; Professor of Otolaryngology; Microbiology and Immunology; Medical College of Wisconsin.

Eric G. Neilson, MD, MACP, FASN; Vice President for Medical Affairs; Lewis Landsberg Dean; Professor of Medicine and Cell and Developmental Biology; Feinberg School of Medicine; Northwestern University.

Robert I. Grossman, MD; Dean, New York University Grossman School of Medicine; Chief Executive Officer, New York University Langone Health.

Lloyd B. Minor, M.D.; Carl and Elizabeth Naumann Dean of the Stanford University School of Medicine; Professor of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery; Professor of Neurobiology and of Bioengineering, by courtesy.

Lee Hamm, MD; Senior Vice President & Dean of the School of Medicine; Tulane University.

Jerris R. Hedges, MD, MS, MMM; Professor & Dean; Barry & Virginia Weinman—Endowed Chair; John A. Burns School of Medicine; University of Hawaii—Manoa.

Mark T. Gladwin, MD; Vice President for Medical Affairs, UM Baltimore; John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor and; Dean, University of Maryland School of Medicine.

Henri R. Ford, MD, MHA; Dean and Chief Academic Officer; University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.

J. Larry Jameson, MD, PhD; Executive Vice President of the University of Pennsylvania for the Health System; Dean, Perelman School of Medicine.

Nancy J. Brown, MD; Jean and David W. Wallace Dean; C.N.H. Long Professor of Internal Medicine; Yale School of Medicine.

Enclosure.

RECOMMENDED LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE TO ALLOW OUTSIDE COMPENSATION IN LIMITED CIRCUMSTANCES RELATED TO RESEARCH (FROM HR 5721)

(a) Office of Research and Development.—Chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subchapter:

“SUBCHAPTER V—RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
“§ 7381. Office of Research and Development

“(a) Office of Research and Development.—There is in the Veterans Health Administration an Office of Research and Development (in this section referred to as the ‘Office’).

“(b) Purposes.—The function of the Office is to serve veterans through a full spectrum of research (including pre-clinical, clinical, and health systems science), technology transfer, and application.

“(c) Chief Research and Development Officer.—The head of the Office is the Chief Research and Development Officer.

“(d) Organization and personnel.—The Office shall be organized in such manner, and its personnel shall perform such duties and have such titles, as the Secretary may prescribe.

“§ 7382. Research personnel

“(a) Waiver of Intergovernmental Personnel Act Mobility Program limits.—The Secretary may waive the limit on the period and number of assignments required under section 3372(a) of title 5 with respect to an individual who performs research for the Department under the mobility program under subchapter VI of chapter 33 of such title (commonly referred to as the ‘Intergovernmental Personnel Act Mobility Program’).

“(b) Outside earned income for research for the Department.—(1) Compensation from a nonprofit corporation established under subchapter IV of this chapter, or a university affiliated with the Department, may be paid, without regard to section 209 of title 18, to an employee described in paragraph (2), for research conducted pursuant to section 7303 of this title if—

“(A) the research has been approved in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Under Secretary for Health;

“(B) the employee conducts research under the supervision of personnel of the Department; and

“(C) the Secretary agreed to the terms of such compensation in writing.

“(2) An employee described in this subsection is an employee who has an appointment within the Department, whether with or without compensation, and without regard to the source of such compensation.”

Mr. TAKANO. In one letter, deans from 20 medical schools note that without the legislative fix in VIPER, VA will have to “interrupt hundreds of millions of dollars invested in life-saving biomedical research for America’s veterans.”

Mr. Speaker, we must pass this bill, urge our Senate colleagues to pass it, and get it to the President by the end of the year to give VA the authorities it needs to fix its research program issues now.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5721, the VIPER Act, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5721, as amended, the VA Infrastructure Powers Exceptional Research Act of 2021, or the VIPER Act.

Ranking Member BOST is an original cosponsor of this bill alongside Chairman TAKANO.

Research is one of the core statutory missions of the VA healthcare system. VA researchers have made a number of important discoveries and advancements that have benefited not only veterans but the entire world.

Just recently, with the pandemic, VA researchers have done groundbreaking work utilizing vast stores of data to identify certain collateral health im-

pacts on vulnerable populations, and they have made notable advancements in studying the characteristics of and potential treatments for what is termed long COVID.

This bill will make it easier for VA to conduct the research that veterans require, and yield advancements in science and medicine that will benefit everyone.

The VIPER Act would codify VA’s Office of Research and Development.

VIPER would also better structure VA’s ability to conduct research across the system.

Finally, this bill will expand hiring authorities for certain classes of research occupations, including statisticians, economists, informaticists, and data scientists.

VA needs the talent of these occupational categories to keep up with rapid changes in data analytics, including artificial intelligence.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the bipartisan committee work that has been done to date on this bill, and I encourage all of my colleagues to support it. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in passing this important piece of legislation, H.R. 5721, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5721, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

STRENGTHENING VA CYBERSECURITY ACT OF 2022

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7299) to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to obtain an independent cybersecurity assessment of information systems of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7299

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 “Strengthening VA Cybersecurity Act of 2022” or the “SVAC Act of 2022”.

SEC. 2. INDEPENDENT CYBERSECURITY ASSESSMENT OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,

the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall seek to enter into an agreement with a federally funded research and development center to provide to the Secretary an independent cybersecurity assessment of—

(A) five high-impact information systems of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

(B) the effectiveness of the information security program and information security management system of the Department.

(2) DETAILED ANALYSIS.—The independent cybersecurity assessment provided under paragraph (1) shall include a detailed analysis of the ability of the Department—

(A) to ensure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the information, information systems, and devices of the Department; and

(B) to protect against—

(i) advanced persistent cybersecurity threats;

(ii) ransomware;

(iii) denial of service attacks;

(iv) insider threats;

(v) threats from foreign actors, including state sponsored criminals and other foreign based criminals;

(vi) phishing;

(vii) credential theft;

(viii) cybersecurity attacks that target the supply chain of the Department;

(ix) threats due to remote access and telework activity; and

(x) other cyber threats.

(3) TYPES OF SYSTEMS.—The independent cybersecurity assessment provided under paragraph (1) shall cover on-premises, remote, cloud-based, and mobile information systems and devices used by, or in support of, Department activities.

(4) SHADOW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.—The independent cybersecurity assessment provided under paragraph (1) shall include an evaluation of the use of information technology systems, devices, and services by employees and contractors of the Department who do so without the heads of the elements of the Department that are responsible for information technology at the Department knowing or approving of such use.

(5) METHODOLOGY.—In conducting the cybersecurity assessment to be provided under paragraph (1), the federally funded research and development center shall take into account industry best practices and the current state-of-the-art in cybersecurity evaluation and review.

(b) PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which an independent assessment is provided to the Secretary by a federally funded research and development center pursuant to an agreement entered into under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a plan to address the findings of the federally funded research and development center set forth in such assessment.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The plan submitted under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Improvements to the security controls of the information systems of the Department assessed under subsection (a) to—

(i) achieve the goals specified in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2) of such subsection; and

(ii) protect against the threats specified in subparagraph (B) of such paragraph.

(B) Improvements to the information security program and information security management system of the Department to achieve such goals and protect against such threats.

(C) A cost estimate for implementing the plan.

(D) A timeline for implementing the plan.

(E) Such other elements as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(C) COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES EVALUATION AND REVIEW.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the submission of the plan under subsection (b)(1), the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) commence an evaluation and review of—

(A) the independent cybersecurity assessment provided under subsection (a); and

(B) the response of the Department to such assessment; and

(2) provide to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a briefing on the results of the evaluation and review, including any recommendations made to the Secretary regarding the matters covered by the briefing.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 7299, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 7299, the Strengthening VA Cybersecurity Act of 2022. This bill represents a bipartisan, bicameral effort to oversee the Department of Veterans Affairs' cybersecurity efforts.

This legislation requires independent assessment of the VA's cybersecurity readiness by a federally funded research and development center, or FFRDC.

This bill is necessary because of the poor performance of VA in audits required by the Federal Information Security Modernization Act, also known as FISMA, and independent audits from the VA OIG on individual VA sites.

The bill also seeks to address the issue of "shadow IT" which has been a priority of the committee this Congress. If VA does not know what is on its networks and can't identify assets being utilized outside of the Office of Information Technology, then VA can't secure it.

VA's repository of veterans' health information needs to be protected. We owe it to veterans to address these challenges now so that Congress and veterans can be assured that VA will secure their personal information.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 7299, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7299, as amended, the Strengthening VA Cybersecurity Act of 2022.

VA is the second largest Federal agency, and it handles 9 million veterans' personal information. The Department is a big target for cyber criminals, and the Veterans' Affairs Committee is responsible for making sure their data is being protected.

Unfortunately, it can be hard to assess how well VA is truly performing on cybersecurity, and how successfully the money invested translates into better security for veterans' information.

This bill would require a third-party cybersecurity audit of VA to fill in the gaps left by the existing audits. While necessary, those audits tend to be compliance exercises.

In contrast, this legislation requires a hard look at actual VA systems and real-world vulnerabilities. The bill also requires VA to submit a detailed plan to remediate whatever weaknesses the third-party auditor finds.

Hostile nations are working around the clock to exploit any vulnerability in our networks or systems, especially with health records. We must stay one step ahead of them, and I appreciate Mr. MRVAN's work on this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 7299, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7299, 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. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

IMPROVING OVERSIGHT OF VETERANS COMMUNITY CARE PROVIDERS ACT OF 2022

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7277) to improve the methods by which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs identifies health care providers that are not eligible to participate in the Veterans Community Care Program, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7277

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 "Improving Oversight of Veterans Community Care Providers Act of 2022".

SEC. 2. IDENTIFICATION OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS THAT ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN VETERANS COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM.

(a) PLAN.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Beginning not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, acting through the Under Secretary for Health, shall carry out a plan to improve the methods by which the Secretary identifies health care providers that are not eligible to participate in the Veterans Community Care Program.

(2) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The plan under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Modifying the standard operating procedures of the Office of Community Care of the Veterans Health Administration regarding the exclusion of health care providers from participating in the Veterans Community Care Program to require the automated continuous matching of health care providers in the Provider Profile Management System of the Veterans Health Administration, or such successor system, with covered data systems using multiple unique identifiers, including taxpayer identification number, national provider identifier, Social Security number, and date of birth.

(B) A fraud risk analysis conducted by the Office of Community Care regarding the exclusion of health care providers from participating in the Veterans Community Care Program that includes—

(i) an assessment of the likelihood and impact of inherent fraud risks relating to the self-certification of State licenses and addresses provided by health care providers;

(ii) a determination of the fraud risk tolerance; and

(iii) an examination of the suitability of existing fraud controls.

(C) Any other matters the Under Secretary determines will improve the oversight of health care providers participating in the Veterans Community Care Program.

(b) CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall certify to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate that the Secretary has implemented the plan under subsection (a).

(c) REPORTS.—

(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report that—

(A) describes the progress the Under Secretary has made in carrying out the plan under subsection (a); and

(B) includes recommendations for legislative action to further improve the methods by which the Secretary identifies health care providers that are not eligible to participate in the Veterans Community Care Program.

(2) UPDATE.—Not later than two years after the date on which the Secretary submits the report under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate an update to the report.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term "covered data systems" means the following:

(A) The List of Excluded Individuals/Entities of the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services.

(B) The System for Award Management Exclusions list described in part 9 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations, and part 180 of title 2 of such Code, or successor regulations.

(C) The monthly deactivation file of the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

(D) The National Practitioner Data Bank established pursuant to the Health Care Quality Improvement Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 11101 et seq.).

(2) The term "Veterans Community Care Program" means the program established under section 1703 of title 38, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 7277, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7277, the Improving Oversight of Veterans Community Care Providers Act, as amended, a bill that will take important steps toward ensuring that healthcare providers meet the eligibility requirements and standards of VA's Community Care Program.

I thank Representative CHRIS PAPPAS, chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee's Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, for his work on this bipartisan bill.

I was disturbed by a recent Government Accountability Office report requested by Chairman PAPPAS and Ranking Member TRACEY MANN, which identified approximately 1,600 healthcare providers who were deceased, ineligible to work with the Federal Government, or who had revoked or suspended medical licenses, yet were still listed as active providers in VA's Community Care networks.

While the number of ineligible providers was a small fraction of the roughly 1.2 million active providers in VA's Community Care networks, they still represented a potential threat to veteran health and safety, and a risk for financial fraud.

Congressman PAPPAS' bill would require VA to implement GAO's recommendations to ensure veterans and taxpayers are not put at risk.

The bill will modify standard operating procedures at the VA Health Administration and require continuous matching of providers' information against several data sources in order to verify eligibility, such as the List of Excluded Individuals and Entities that the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General maintains, the National Practitioner Data Bank, and the monthly deactivation file of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

This will go a long way toward ensuring that physicians and other providers in VA's Community Care networks meet the basic and necessary standards, such as proper and current licensing requirements.

This bill has the support of the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that it will have no significant impact on direct spending or deficits.

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

□ 1545

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7277, as amended, the Improving Oversight of the Veterans Community Care Providers Act.

This is a bipartisan bill led by Chairman PAPPAS and Ranking Member MANN of the Oversight and Investigation Subcommittee.

H.R. 7277 would implement recent recommendations from the Government Accountability Office on how to improve oversight of community care. Community care is VA care, and it should be timely and of the highest quality.

Unfortunately, our committee has heard repeated complaints of delays in community care. Long wait-times at VA medical centers and delays in community care are unacceptable, and we take these complaints very seriously.

The committee will continue our strict oversight of the program to ensure veterans are getting the care they need when and where they need it. It is vital to protect this important option for veterans, and I encourage all my colleagues to support the bill.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. PAPPAS), my good friend, who is the author of this legislation and who serves as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman TAKANO for yielding.

I rise today in support of my bipartisan legislation, H.R. 7277, the Improving Oversight of Veterans Community Care Providers Act.

This legislation will help ensure that the Department of Veterans Affairs does a better job overseeing its Community Care Program, which many veterans in my State of New Hampshire and all across the country rely on to access high-quality care in their communities.

When veterans visit a community healthcare provider, they should be assured, at a minimum, that the provider has a medical license and is eligible to do business with the Federal Government. Unfortunately, as a December 2021 GAO report detailed, this has not always been the case.

GAO identified approximately 1,600 community care providers who were deceased, ineligible to work with the Federal Government, or who had re-

voked or suspended medical licenses at the time of the review.

That is 1,600 physicians and other healthcare providers who failed to meet some of the program's most basic requirements. This poses a potential threat to veteran health and well-being, and risks wasting tax dollars on inappropriate medical charges. My legislation will strengthen oversight of these community care providers.

Now, to VA's credit, the Department has updated several data systems to improve the credentialing process and to continuously monitor the eligibility of providers. But progress has been too slow, and this legislation is needed to hold the Department fully accountable.

This bill will require VA to implement a detailed plan with required milestones for identifying healthcare providers who are no longer eligible to participate in the Community Care Program.

Under the plan, VA will automatically check whether providers are designated as ineligible on other critical lists managed by the Department of Health and Human Services and CMMS.

VA will also be required to analyze the efficacy of allowing community care providers to self-certify their eligibility to participate in the program. We need VA to adopt a more complete method for credentialing providers that has ample checks and balances.

I thank Ranking Member TRACEY MANN for working with me on this bipartisan legislation, which has also been endorsed by VFW, the American Legion, and Disabled American Veterans.

Once enacted, it will give much-needed protection to veterans to ensure they have high-quality healthcare they earned through their service to our Nation, without fear that they may be receiving care from an ineligible provider. So I urge all colleagues to support this legislation today.

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

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in passing this important piece of legislation, H.R. 7277, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7277, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. ROSENDALE. 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.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REFORM ACT OF 2022

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2250) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the management of information technology projects and investments of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2250

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 “Department of Veterans Affairs Information Technology Reform Act of 2022”.

SEC. 2. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subchapter:

“SUBCHAPTER VI—INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

“§ 8171. Definitions

“In this subchapter:

“(1) The term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

“(A) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

“(B) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

“(2) The term ‘information technology’ has the meaning given that term in section 11101 of title 40.

“(3)(A) The term ‘information technology project’ means a project or program of the Department (including a project or program of any element of the Department) for, or including, the acquisition or implementation of information technology.

“(B) In cases where the Secretary transmits to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget information regarding information technology investments, which may consist of individual or multiple projects, the term ‘information technology project’ refers to an individual project or program or a grouping of multiple projects or programs resulting in the acquisition or implementation of discrete information technology.

“(4) The term ‘life cycle costs’ means all direct and indirect costs to acquire, implement, operate, and maintain information technology, including with respect to costs of any element of the Department.

“(5) The term ‘major information technology project’ means an information technology project if—

“(A) the project is designated by the Secretary, the Chief Information Officer of the Department, or the Director of the Office of Management and Budget as a major information technology investment, as defined in section 11302 of title 40; or

“(B) the dollar value of the project is estimated by the Secretary to exceed—

“(i) \$1,000,000,000 (as adjusted for inflation pursuant to section 1908 of title 41) for the total life cycle costs of the project; or

“(ii) \$200,000,000 (as adjusted for inflation pursuant to section 1908 of title 41) annually.

“(6) The term ‘business owner’ means, with respect to an information technology project, the program manager, project manager, or other supervisory official of the Department responsible for the project.

“§ 8172. Management of major information technology projects

“(a) COST, SCHEDULE, AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION.—(1) The Secretary, acting through the Chief Information Officer of the Department, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report containing information on the cost, schedule, and performance of each major information technology project that begins after the date of the enactment of the Department of Veterans Affairs Information Technology Reform Act of 2022, as generated by the business owner of the project, prior to the commencement of such project.

“(2) Each report submitted under paragraph (1) for a project shall include, with respect to such project, the following:

“(A) An estimate of acquisition costs, implementation costs, and life cycle costs.

“(B) An intended implementation schedule indicating significant milestones, initial operating capability, and full operating capability or completion.

“(C) Key business, functional, and performance objectives.

“(b) BASELINE.—(1) The Secretary shall use the information on the cost, schedule, and performance of a major information technology project included in the report under subsection (a) as the baseline against which changes or variances are measured during the life cycle of such project.

“(2) The Secretary shall—

“(A) annually update the baseline of a major information technology project pursuant to subsection (c); and

“(B) include such updated baseline in the documents providing detailed information on the budget for the Department that the Secretary submits to Congress in conjunction with the President’s budget submission pursuant to section 1105 of title 31.

“(c) CHANGES AND VARIANCES.—(1) Not later than 60 days after the date on which the Secretary identifies a change or variance described in paragraph (2) in the cost, schedule, or performance of a major information technology project, the Secretary, acting through the Chief Information Officer, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a notification of such change or variance, including a description and explanation for such change or variance.

“(2) A change or variance in the cost, schedule, or performance of a major information technology project described in this paragraph is—

“(A) with respect to the acquisition, implementation, or life cycle cost of the project, or development increment therein, a change or variance that is 10 percent or greater compared to the baseline;

“(B) with respect to the schedule for a development increment or for achieving a significant milestone, initial operating capability, or full operating capability, or for the final completion of the project, a change or variance that is 180 days or greater compared to the baseline; or

“(C) with respect to the performance, an instance where a key business, functional, or performance objective is not attained, or is not anticipated to be attained, in whole or in part.

“(d) MANAGEMENT.—The Secretary shall ensure that each major information technology project is managed by an interdisciplinary team consisting of the following:

“(1) A project manager who—

“(A)(i) is certified in project management at level three by—

“(I) the Department;

“(II) the Federal Acquisition Institute pursuant to section 1201 of title 41; or

“(III) the Department of Defense pursuant to section 1701a of title 10; or

“(ii) holds an equivalent certification by a private sector project management certification organization, as determined appropriate by the Secretary; and

“(B) is an employee of the Office of Information and Technology of the Department or an employee of an element of the Department at which the project originates.

“(2) A functional lead who is an employee of the element of the Department at which the project originates.

“(3) A technical lead who is an employee of the Office of Information and Technology of the Department.

“(4) A contracting officer.

“(5) Sufficient other project management, functional, technical, and procurement personnel as the Secretary determines appropriate.

“§ 8173. Information technology activities of the Financial Services Center

“(a) MANAGEMENT.—Consistent with sections 11302 and 11319 of title 40—

“(1) the Chief Information Officer of the Department shall—

“(A) exercise authority over the management, governance, and oversight processes relating to existing or proposed information technology of the Financial Services Center of the Department, or such successor office; and

“(B) supervise the information technology employees and contractors of the Financial Services Center; and

“(2) the Director of the Financial Services Center of the Department, or the head of such successor office, may not enter into a contract or other agreement for information technology or information technology services unless the contract or other agreement has been reviewed and approved by the Chief Information Officer.

“(b) OVERSIGHT.—The Chief Information Officer shall have oversight and operational authority over all information security practices of the Financial Services Center of the Department.

“§ 8174. Submission of annual reviews of information technology

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief Information Officer of the Department, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees each annual review of the information technology portfolio of the Department conducted pursuant to section 11319(d)(3) of title 40.

“(b) FIRST SUBMISSION.—The first annual review submitted under subsection (a) shall include a copy of each previous annual review conducted under section 11319(d)(3) of title 40.

“§ 8175. Information technology matters to be included in budget justification materials for the Department

“(a) LIST OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS IN EFFECT.—The Secretary shall ensure that whenever the budget justification materials are submitted to Congress in support of the Department budget for a fiscal year (as submitted with the budget of the President for such fiscal year under section 1105(a) of title 31), such budget justification materials include a list of every information technology project currently in effect at the Department (including not only congressional projects and subprojects as determined by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget or the Secretary).

“(b) **PRIORITIZED LIST OF UNFUNDED PROJECTS.**—(1) In addition to the list included in the budget justification materials required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall ensure that the budget justification materials described in such subsection also include summary descriptions and a prioritized list, in rank order, of every information technology project of the Department, proposed or intended to be proposed for the following one, two, or three fiscal years, that is unfunded as of the time of the inclusion of the list under this paragraph.

“(2) In producing the list required by paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

“(A) ensure such list represents a ranking of all proposed information technology projects that reflects the needs of all elements of the Department;

“(B) produce one unified list for the entire Department demonstrating how the various proposed information technology projects of each of the elements of the Department rank in priority with the information technology projects of the other elements of the Department; and

“(C) ensure that the list—

“(i) does not disaggregate and rank information technology projects based on element of the Department; and

“(ii) does identify the element of the Department requesting the information technology project.

“(3)(A) In producing each list under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall prioritize and rank each information technology project based on an assessment of each of the following factors:

“(i) Degree of collaboration between business owners and the Chief Information Officer with respect to joint functional-technical planning, requirements, and management.

“(ii) Operational or efficiency benefits to employees of the Department created or produced by the information technology project.

“(iii) The life cycle cost of the information technology project.

“(iv) The cost savings or cost avoidance yielded by the information technology project.

“(v) Time to completion of the information technology project.

“(vi) The difficulty of the information technology project, the likelihood the information technology project will be completed, or the risks associated with undertaking the information technology project.

“(vii) Tangible benefits to veterans created or produced by the information technology project.

“(viii) Such other factors as the Secretary considers appropriate.

“(B) The Secretary shall ensure that each list produced under paragraph (1) includes, for each information technology project included in the list, a brief description of the findings of the Secretary with respect to each assessment carried out by the Secretary for each factor for the information technology project under subparagraph (A).

“(c) **PROJECTED FUNDING NEEDS.**—(1) In addition to the matters included under subsections (a) and (b), the Secretary shall ensure that the budget justification materials described in subsection (a) also include a projection of the one-year, two-year, and three-year funding needs of the Department for information technology, disaggregated by—

“(A) portfolio; and

“(B) the product line of the Department that requires the funding.

“(2) In addition to the projections under paragraph (1), with respect to each of the periods set forth in such paragraph, the Secretary shall include a description of the funding required for each technology business management category used by the Of-

fice of Information Technology of the Department (commonly referred to as ‘cost pools’ and ‘towers’).’.

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SUBCHAPTER VI—INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

“Sec. 8171. Definitions.

“Sec. 8172. Management of major information technology projects.

“Sec. 8173. Information technology activities of the Financial Services Center.

“Sec. 8174. Submission of annual reviews of information technology.

“Sec. 8175. Information technology matters to be included in budget justification materials for the Department.”

(c) **APPLICATION AND REPORT REGARDING MANAGEMENT OF MAJOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS.**—

(1) **CURRENT AND NEW MAJOR PROJECTS.**—Except as specifically provided in subsection (a) of section 8172 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a) of this section, such section 8172 shall apply with respect to major information technology projects that begin before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) **REPORT ON CURRENT PROJECTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on each major information technology project that the Secretary is carrying out as of the date of the report.

(B) **CONTENTS.**—The report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall contain, with respect to each project described in such subparagraph, information on the cost, schedule, and performance of the project as described in subsection (a) of section 8172 of such title, as so added.

(3) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection, the terms “appropriate congressional committees” and “major information technology project” have the meanings given those terms in section 8171 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a) of this section.

(d) **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACTIVITIES OF THE FINANCIAL SERVICES CENTER.**—

(1) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—Section 8173 of such title, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) **APPLICABILITY.**—Subsection (a)(2) of such section shall apply with respect to contracts and agreements entered into on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) **EFFECTIVE DATE OF REQUIREMENT FOR PROJECTS IN BUDGET JUSTIFICATION MATERIALS.**—Subsection (c) of section 8175 of such title, as added by subsection (a) of this section, shall take effect on the first Monday in the second January beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 2250, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Veterans Affairs Information Technology Reform Act requires VA to report on the cost, schedule, and performance information for major information technology projects. A major information technology project is a project that exceeds \$500 million in total life cycle costs.

H.R. 2250, as amended, also requires VA to ensure that each major IT project is managed by an interdisciplinary team. The bill is necessary due to the numerous issues that the VA has had with technology modernization and management of its major IT programs. This bill provides Congress with key information to conduct proper oversight over those programs.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2250, as amended, the VA Information Technology Reform Act of 2022. Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. MRVAN, and Mr. BANKS have worked on this legislation in the Technology Modernization Subcommittee for over 2 years.

The VA relies on information technology to deliver nearly every service and benefit to our Nation's veterans. But it is no secret that there have been many struggles with IT projects that fail to deliver. Cost and schedule overruns and poor performance are routine.

This bipartisan legislation creates new accountability standards for VA to plan, initiate, and manage large IT projects. Congress has to be informed in advance, before any money is spent, and the VA has to create a baseline to measure each project's performance against.

The legislation also reforms how VA budgets for IT and increases transparency into the Department's activities and needs.

I commend Mr. ROSENDALE for being a watchdog on this important and difficult issue.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

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

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ROSENDALE).

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my legislation, H.R. 2250, the VA Information Technology Reform Act of 2022.

When I began serving on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I was horrified to discover that Congress is shoveling roughly \$9 billion a year into VA

information technology, with disappointing results and very little useful information about how it is even being spent.

The VA's annual IT operations budget is nearly \$5.8 billion. The disastrous Electronic Health Record Modernization Program received \$2.6 billion last year alone, and several hundred million more dollars go to other IT programs annually.

To be sure, every year VA produces hundreds of pages of budget documents about IT. But when I examined them, I found very little relevance to what is actually happening and zero accountability. That is why I introduced H.R. 2250, the VA IT Reform Act. It would require VA to report on major IT projects, costs estimates, schedules, and performance goals before they begin and before any money is spent on them. If the project is approved, that information would then become baseline that progress is measured against annually.

If we had already been getting all this information, several of the VA big-ticket IT projects would have been canceled, and some would never have been started at all. Instead, we are working to contain the damage from the EHR, while still piecing together how it even began.

At the same time, VA is now on its second attempt to modernize its supply chain and its third attempt to replace its financial systems.

My legislation would also reform how VA budgets for IT. It would require the Department to rank each requested project in terms of costs, risks, and benefits, and present each office's IT needs in plain language, not the indecipherable categories that now exist.

Finally, my bill would make the VA Chief Information Officer responsible for the Financial Services Centers IT's activities and make troves of information from the Office of Management and Budget about the VA IT programs available to Congress.

Once Congress has all of this information, it is our responsibility to oversee the spending decisions VA is making. Every IT project has to improve the services and benefits our veterans receive or it should not receive a single dollar more of taxpayer money.

I thank Mr. MRVAN and Mr. BANKS for working with me on this bill, and I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that I know this Congress, the 117th Congress, is coming to a close and I may not see you up on the rostrum and the dais again, I wanted to say mahalo for your service in our military, mahalo for your service to the people of Hawaii, mahalo for your service to the American people.

I ask all my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 2250, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2250, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. ROSENDALE. 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.

LYMPHEDEMA TREATMENT ACT

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3630) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of certain lymphedema compression treatment items under the Medicare program, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3630

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 "Lymphedema Treatment Act".

SEC. 2. MEDICARE COVERAGE OF CERTAIN LYMPHEDEMA COMPRESSION TREATMENT ITEMS.

(a) COVERAGE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x) is amended—

(A) in subsection (s)(2)—

(i) in subparagraph (GG), by striking "and" after the semicolon at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (HH), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(II) lymphedema compression treatment items (as defined in subsection (III));"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(III) LYMPHEDEMA COMPRESSION TREATMENT ITEMS.—The term 'lymphedema compression treatment items' means standard and custom fitted gradient compression garments and other items determined by the Secretary that are—

"(1) furnished on or after January 1, 2024, to an individual with a diagnosis of lymphedema for the treatment of such condition;

"(2) primarily and customarily used to serve a medical purpose and for the treatment of lymphedema, as determined by the Secretary; and

"(3) prescribed by a physician (or a physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or a clinical nurse specialist (as those terms are defined in section 1861(aa)(5)) to the extent authorized under State law)."

(2) PAYMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 1833(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(a)(1)) is amended—

(i) by striking "and" before "(EE)"; and

(ii) by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: "; and (FF) with respect to lymphedema compression treatment items (as defined in section 1861(III)), the amount paid shall be equal to 80 percent of the lesser of the actual charge or the amount

determined under the payment basis determined under section 1834(z)".

(B) PAYMENT BASIS AND LIMITATIONS.—Section 1834 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(z) PAYMENT FOR LYMPHEDEMA COMPRESSION TREATMENT ITEMS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall determine an appropriate payment basis for lymphedema compression treatment items (as defined in section 1861(III)). In making such a determination, the Secretary may take into account payment rates for such items under State plans (or waivers of such plans) under title XIX, the Veterans Health Administration, and group health plans and health insurance coverage (as such terms are defined in section 2791 of the Public Health Service Act), and such other information as the Secretary determines appropriate.

"(2) FREQUENCY LIMITATION.—No payment may be made under this part for lymphedema compression treatment items furnished other than at such frequency as the Secretary may establish.

"(3) APPLICATION OF COMPETITIVE ACQUISITION.—In the case of lymphedema compression treatment items that are included in a competitive acquisition program in a competitive acquisition area under section 1847(a)—

"(A) the payment basis under this subsection for such items furnished in such area shall be the payment basis determined under such competitive acquisition program; and

"(B) the Secretary may use information on the payment determined under such competitive acquisition programs to adjust the payment amount otherwise determined under this subsection for an area that is not a competitive acquisition area under section 1847, and in the case of such adjustment, paragraphs (8) and (9) of section 1842(b) shall not be applied."

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1847(a)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-3(a)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(D) LYMPHEDEMA COMPRESSION TREATMENT ITEMS.—Lymphedema compression treatment items (as defined in section 1861(III)) for which payment would otherwise be made under section 1834(z)."

(b) INCLUSION IN REQUIREMENTS FOR SUPPLIERS OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES.—Section 1834 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(20)(D), by adding at the end the following new clause:

"(iv) Lymphedema compression treatment items (as defined in section 1861(III))."

(2) in subsection (j)(5)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (E) and (F) as subparagraphs (F) and (G), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraph:

"(E) lymphedema compression treatment items (as defined in section 1861(III))."

SEC. 3. MEDICARE IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Section 1898(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395iii(b)(1)) is amended by striking "\$7,308,000,000" and inserting "\$6,738,000,000".

SEC. 4. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3630.

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

There was no objection.

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

□ 1600

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 3630, the Lymphedema Treatment Act. This bipartisan legislation sponsored by Representative SCHAKOWSKY will help Medicare beneficiaries suffering from lymphedema access needed compression garments.

Lymphedema is a condition caused by a chronic failure of the lymphatic system that results in the accumulation of lymph fluid and swelling in various parts of the body. Lymphedema can sometimes be a congenital condition but is more often a secondary complication of common health issues like burns or cancer.

Altogether, an estimated 3 to 5 million Americans are affected by this chronic condition, and if left untreated, individuals have a higher risk of hospitalization, disability, and even death.

While there is no known cure for lymphedema, it can be effectively treated and managed. Compression therapy is a critical component of treatment.

While Medicare covers some lymphedema treatments like compression pumps, Medicare does not cover the compression garments needed for ongoing lymphedema management because it lacks the legislative authority to cover these items.

The Lymphedema Treatment Act will close the unintended gap in coverage that prevents Medicare beneficiaries from accessing medically necessary, prescribed compression garments.

I thank Representative SCHAKOWSKY for her longtime advocacy on this issue and the more than 350 bipartisan Members who signed on in support of this legislation. This bill passed out of the Energy and Commerce Committee in July by a unanimous vote, and it will help ensure that patients with lymphedema have access to the full range of treatment they need.

Mr. Speaker, I urge its passage, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3630, the Lymphedema Treat-

ment Act, introduced by my friend and fellow Committee on Energy and Commerce member JAN SCHAKOWSKY, as well as the Subcommittee on Health member BUDDY CARTER, along with myself and more than 350 Members on both sides of the aisle.

This legislation would create a new Medicare benefit category, lymphedema compression treatment items, including standard and custom-fitted garments, and other items determined by HHS, for treatment of lymphedema.

As many of us know, thanks to a passionate and committed group of patient stakeholders, lymphedema is a chronic condition that may cause significant swelling and discomfort. It is often located in the arms and legs but can also occur in other parts of the body.

Unfortunately, there is no cure today for this condition, but patients are able to receive care that can mitigate some of the symptoms caused by lymphedema. One of the most basic elements of care is the application of compression garments to swollen body parts.

As it stands today, fee-for-service Medicare covers various forms of treatment for lymphedema but does not cover the basic compression supplies typically used in the regular treatment for this condition. This is a result of the outdated structure of traditional fee-for-service Medicare, which does not have an existing benefit category that works for lymphedema compression garments.

This legislation is yet another reminder that the fee-for-service Medicare as structured today under part B simply cannot keep pace with medical innovation. Private payers, including Medicare Advantage plans, have more flexibility to provide coverage for these products, especially if they add value to the care patients need.

As the popularity of Medicare Advantage demonstrates, there is a built-in incentive to provide better value for patients, meaning better outcomes and lower costs. It has been proven.

It has been discouraging to see an ever-growing number of situations where a particular drug—for instance, an entire class of Alzheimer's drugs recently restricted by CMS—or other medical products are not covered for seniors in Medicare fee-for-service when other patients in the private market, or even in Medicare Advantage, may have them covered.

I am hopeful that bills like the one that we are here to discuss today, where Congress continues to patch the inefficiencies in the Medicare program, not only benefit seniors but also help all of us recognize that seniors deserve greater Medicare reforms. Those reforms should empower patients with greater control over their healthcare decisions and more ability to tailor their health benefits to their personal needs, all with the goal of no senior being denied or having to lobby Con-

gress to get the medical products they need. It makes sense.

Finally, I am encouraged to see that the new mandatory spending in this legislation will be fully offset, and I encourage my colleagues to continue to insist that we fully offset mandatory spending now and into the future. This is responsible. It is responsible legislating.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the sponsors for this bill, H.R. 3630, and the chairman, of course, and the ranking member of the full committee. I fully support this legislation and recommend a "yes" vote on final passage.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), the sponsor of this legislation and the chairwoman of the subcommittee.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the committee for yielding.

I am just so happy that we see the Lymphedema Treatment Act on the floor today.

I thank my colleague on the Republican side, BUDDY CARTER, for being a cosponsor of the legislation and helping to put it forward with so many bipartisan sponsors of the legislation, over 350—what is it, 366?—cosponsors of the bill.

I look forward to passing it in the House today. There are enough Senators on the other side of the rotunda here that also have sponsored, so I look forward to it becoming the law of the land.

I thank all the advocates who worked so hard, including Heather Ferguson, who is the executive director of the Lymphedema Advocacy Group, and all the people whom she worked with to help make this pass. Heather is the mother of a son that has lymphedema. I thank all the constituents who worked so hard to make this happen.

Here is what it is about lymphedema. It is not only painful and debilitating; it is also incurable. But we are lucky that there actually is a remedy, a treatment for lymphedema.

Many of you may be familiar with it. You may not have known the name. Two-thirds of all lymphedema cases develop after cancer treatment. You see that swelling. But what we don't have is the kind of treatment that is actually needed.

Currently, Medicare does not cover these important compression garments, which is what can really help people so very much. My bill will actually finally expand access to these garments for lymphedema patients on Medicare.

This will absolutely help the 3 million Americans who have lymphedema to be able to have some of the relief that they need at a cost that they can afford. It will also reduce Medicare costs because instead of these people developing all kinds of other health

issues, they will be able to be treated with these compression garments.

Again, I thank Chairman PALLONE, Ranking Member CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS, Representative BUDDY CARTER, and all the Members on both sides of the aisle. Mr. Speaker, I urge everyone to endorse this wonderful bill and vote "yes."

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, this is a real good bill, a bipartisan bill. We worked very hard on it, and we have a great sponsor here and a Republican sponsor in Representative BUDDY CARTER, and I urge that we pass this as soon as possible. I assume the Senate will get to work and get this done, as well.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I also urge passage of this bill, another bipartisan bill where we all worked together from the Energy and Commerce Committee, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3630, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

ENSURING PHONE AND INTERNET ACCESS THROUGH LIFELINE AND AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM ACT OF 2022

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4275) to provide for certain reports on enrollment in the Lifeline program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4275

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 "Ensuring Phone and Internet Access Through Lifeline and Affordable Connectivity Program Act of 2022".

SEC. 2. REPORTS ON ENROLLMENT IN CERTAIN PROGRAMS.

(a) ANNUAL REPORT ON ENROLLMENT IN LIFELINE AND AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAMS THROUGH QUALIFYING PROGRAMS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 2 calendar years after the calendar year during which the first report is submitted under this subsection, the Commission shall submit to Congress a report on—

(1) enrollment in the Lifeline program by individuals participating in each of the Lifeline qualifying programs, broken out by each of the Lifeline qualifying programs, to the extent the Commission holds or has access to the necessary data relating to such enrollment; and

(2) enrollment in the Affordable Connectivity Program by individuals participating in each of the Affordable Connectivity Program qualifying programs, broken out by each of the Affordable Connectivity Program qualifying programs, to the extent the Commission holds or has access to the necessary data relating to such enrollment.

(b) GAO STUDY AND REPORT ON EFFORTS TO PROMOTE ENROLLMENT IN LIFELINE AND AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAMS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to Congress identifying outreach and publicity efforts to promote participation and enrollment in the Lifeline program and, separately, the Affordable Connectivity Program.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM QUALIFYING PROGRAM.—The term "Affordable Connectivity Program qualifying program" means the programs set forth in paragraphs (1), (3), (4), and (6) of section 54.1800(j) of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

(2) COMMISSION.—The term "Commission" means the Federal Communications Commission.

(3) LIFELINE QUALIFYING PROGRAM.—The term "Lifeline qualifying program" means the programs set forth in subsections (a)(2) and (b) of section 54.409 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4275, the Ensuring Phone and Internet Access Through Lifeline and Affordable Connectivity Program Act of 2022.

Congress has long recognized the critical importance of ensuring that everyone in this country can access basic communication tools. Indeed, this body wisely included as a cornerstone of the Communications Act the directive that rapid, efficient, and nationwide communications service must be available to "all people of the United States, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex." The Communications Act also said that all Americans must have access to adequate facilities and reasonable charges.

There are two programs, the Lifeline and the Affordable Connectivity Program, that play a critical role in helping us advance these long-held, universal service goals. They move us closer to closing the digital divide by allowing millions of American families across the country to fit high-speed broadband internet access into their budgets.

Both programs are effectively targeted to families that need the help most, including those who are eligible for Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Supplemental Security Income, Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, and the Veterans and Survivors Pension benefit.

As we all know too well, a broadband connection is necessary to participate

in our modern economy and society. Families without broadband are left without equal educational, career, healthcare, and economic opportunities compared to those with this essential service.

Continuing to strengthen these programs and make them more efficient and accessible not only benefits those who sign up but all Americans. That is why I support this bipartisan bill introduced by Representatives LURIA and KATKO. It provides us with more transparency into these programs and can help us better identify opportunities to maximize their support.

I commend Ranking Member RODGERS and Representative LATTA for working with me to advance this legislation on a bipartisan basis. It advanced out of the Energy and Commerce Committee unanimously in July by a vote of 48-0.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4275, the Ensuring Phone and Internet Access Through Lifeline and Affordable Connectivity Program Act, which was unanimously reported out of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

The FCC currently administers two subsidy programs to help low-income Americans get connected, the Lifeline program and the Affordable Connectivity Program. The FCC uses criteria such as household income or participation in other Federal subsidy programs to determine eligibility.

The FCC's inspector general identifies fraud and risk in certain qualifying programs, highlighting the importance of congressional oversight.

□ 1615

H.R. 4275 will help provide Congress with important information regarding how low-income Americans qualify for these programs as we continue our oversight duties.

Specifically, this bill will require the FCC to report to Congress on which eligibility criteria Americans use to qualify for the lifeline of affordable connectivity programs. In carrying out this report, the FCC will be limited to using existing data they currently can access to verify eligibility. It also requires the FCC to report on the outreach and publicity efforts to promote enrollment in these programs.

This legislation is an important first step toward oversight of the FCC and its administration of these programs.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4275.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support 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 New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4275, 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. ROSENDALE. 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.

MANUFACTURING.GOV ACT

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6290) to provide for the establishment of a section of the website of the Department of Commerce that shall serve as the primary hub for information relating to Federal manufacturing programs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6290

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 “Manufacturing.gov Act”.

SEC. 2. MANUFACTURING.GOV HUB.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Commerce, shall modify the manufacturing.gov website by establishing a section of the website to be known as the “manufacturing.gov hub”.

(c) FUNCTIONS.—The manufacturing.gov hub established under subsection (b) shall—

(1) serve as the primary hub for information relating to every Federal manufacturing program, including the programs identified in the report of the Government Accountability Office entitled “U.S. Manufacturing” (GAO 17–240), published on March 28, 2017;

(2) provide the contact information of relevant program offices carrying out the Federal manufacturing programs described in paragraph (1);

(3) provide an avenue for public input and feedback relating to—

(A) the functionality of the website of the Department of Commerce;

(B) the Federal manufacturing programs described in paragraph (1); and

(C) any other manufacturing-related challenges experienced by manufacturers in the United States;

(4) establish web pages within the hub that shall focus on—

(A) technology and research and development;

(B) trade;

(C) workforce development and training;

(D) industrial commons and supply chains; and

(E) small and medium manufacturers; and

(5) use machine learning to—

(A) identify frequently asked questions; and

(B) disseminate to the public answers to the questions identified under subparagraph (A).

(d) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 6290.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 6290, the Manufacturing.gov Act.

America’s competitiveness helped build the largest, most dynamic economy in the world. But America’s competitiveness is facing unprecedented challenges.

Once the envy of the world, our manufacturing base has faced steady headwinds for decades now. Between 2002 and 2020, our Nation’s share of global manufacturing activity declined from 28 percent to just over 17 percent. Five million manufacturing jobs have been lost since 2000. Investment in America’s small and medium manufacturers, the bedrock of our industrial might, has also declined over the last 20 years by over \$200 billion.

To support economic growth and opportunity, we must ensure that the United States has a vibrant, thriving industrial base. It must be capable of developing the technologies and manufacturing the products essential for economic development and prosperity in the 21st century. Fortunately, there are dozens of programs across the Federal Government that provide support for American manufacturing, but today, there is no centralized repository of information about these programs.

Manufacturing programs cannot have their intended effect if not used, and programs cannot be used if potential beneficiaries are not aware that they exist.

The Manufacturing.gov Act requires the Department of Commerce to ensure that the Manufacturing.gov website serves as the primary hub for information relating to Federal manufacturing programs. This critical web page will arm beneficiaries with the information they need to tap into these vital manufacturing programs.

The Manufacturing.gov Act was unanimously reported out of the Committee on Energy and Commerce by a vote of 54–0 in July.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, again, I rise today in support of H.R. 6290, the Manufacturing.gov Act.

H.R. 6290 will require the Department of Commerce to designate a portion of the Manufacturing.gov website to serve as a source for businesses to have access to information relating to Federal manufacturing programs.

As part of the website, the Department of Commerce must make available contact information for relevant program offices carrying out manufacturing programs, web pages that focus on topics such as trade, workforce development, and small and medium manufacturers, as well as provide an avenue for public input and feedback related to Federal manufacturing programs.

Our country faced many challenges, as our chairman said, during the COVID–19 pandemic, especially our manufacturing businesses.

I thank Representative TONKO, Representative AXNE, and Representative UPTON, former chairman of the full committee, for their work on this legislation to provide such businesses with resources to help them get back on their feet. This is so vitally needed, Mr. Speaker.

I urge my colleagues to pass this particular piece of legislation, and let’s get it to the Senate as soon as possible.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO), the sponsor of this bill and chair of our Subcommittee on the Environment and Climate Change.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) for yielding.

The Manufacturing.gov Act is a vital piece of legislation that supports American manufacturers, boosting our economy, our job growth, and our global competitiveness.

The COVID crisis has strained our supply chains and limited factory production abilities, overwhelmingly hurting the middle-class workers who drive our Nation’s economy and our industry.

Congress has a duty to support manufacturers and their workers in every way possible, and that includes making it easier to navigate what Federal resources are available to them.

The Manufacturing.gov Act offers a simple, bipartisan solution to do just that. This legislation establishes a one-stop hub to centralize the 58 different Federal manufacturing programs that span some 11 Federal agencies.

It also encourages public feedback by offering an online avenue for people to

submit comments and concerns regarding such programs.

Now is the time to secure our supply chain and give local manufacturers in my home State of New York and across our great Nation the tools they need to identify the Federal support they will need to help them flourish.

I thank Representatives AXNE and UPTON, as well as Senator PETERS, for being great collaborators on this bill. I urge my colleagues to come together to bolster our United States manufacturing arena.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I encourage us to pass this bill as soon as possible in a bipartisan fashion, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this on a bipartisan basis. It is certainly a goal of this Congress to bring back manufacturing and do whatever we can to encourage domestic manufacturing.

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 New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6290, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. ROSENDALE. 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.

PREVENT ALL SORING TACTICS ACT OF 2021

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5441) to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5441

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 “Prevent All Soring Tactics Act of 2022” or the “PAST Act of 2022”.

SEC. 2. INCREASED ENFORCEMENT UNDER HORSE PROTECTION ACT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2 of the Horse Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 1821) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4) as paragraphs (2), (3), (4), and (5), respectively;

(2) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as so redesignated) the following new paragraph:

“(1)(A) The term ‘action device’ means any boot, collar, chain, roller, or other device that encircles or is placed upon the lower extremity of the leg of a horse in such a manner that it can—

“(i) rotate around the leg or slide up and down the leg, so as to cause friction; or

“(ii) strike the hoof, coronet band, fetlock joint, or pastern of the horse.

“(B) Such term does not include soft rubber or soft leather bell boots or quarter boots that are used as protective devices.”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6)(A) The term ‘participate’ means engaging in any activity with respect to a horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction, including—

“(i) transporting or arranging for the transportation of a horse to or from a horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction;

“(ii) personally giving instructions to an exhibitor; or

“(iii) being knowingly present in a warm-up area, inspection area, or other area at a horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction that spectators are not permitted to enter.

“(B) Such term does not include spectating.”.

(b) FINDINGS.—Section 3 of the Horse Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 1822) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by inserting “and soring horses for such purposes” after “horses in intrastate commerce”; and

(B) by inserting “in many ways, including by creating unfair competition, by deceiving the spectating public and horse buyers, and by negatively impacting horse sales” before the semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at the end;

(3) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(6) the Inspector General of the Department of Agriculture has determined that the program through which the Secretary inspects horses is inadequate for preventing soring;

“(7) historically, Tennessee Walking Horses, Racking Horses, and Spotted Saddle Horses have been subjected to soring; and

“(8) despite regulations in effect related to inspection for purposes of ensuring that horses are not sore, violations of this Act continue to be prevalent in the Tennessee Walking Horse, Racking Horse, and Spotted Saddle Horse breeds.”.

(c) HORSE SHOWS AND EXHIBITIONS.—Section 4 of the Horse Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 1823) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “appointed” and inserting “licensed”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new sentences: “In the first instance in which the Secretary determines that a horse is sore, the Secretary shall disqualify the horse from being shown or exhibited for a period of not less than 180 days. In the second instance in which the Secretary determines that such horse is sore, the Secretary shall disqualify the horse for a period of not less than one year. In the third instance in which the Secretary determines that such horse is sore, the Secretary shall disqualify the horse for a period of not less than three years.”;

(2) in subsection (b) by striking “appointed” and inserting “licensed”;

(3) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following new subsection:

“(c)(1)(A) The Secretary shall prescribe by regulation requirements for the Department of Agriculture to license, train, assign, and oversee persons qualified to detect and diagnose a horse which is sore or to otherwise inspect horses at horse shows, horse exhibitions, or horse sales or auctions, for hire by

the management of such events, for the purposes of enforcing this Act.

“(B) No person shall be issued a license under this subsection unless such person is free from conflicts of interest, as defined by the Secretary in the regulations issued under subparagraph (A).

“(C) If the Secretary determines that the performance of a person licensed in accordance with subparagraph (A) is unsatisfactory, the Secretary may, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing, revoke the license issued to such person.

“(D) In issuing licenses under this subsection, the Secretary shall give a preference to persons who are licensed or accredited veterinarians.

“(E) Licensure of a person in accordance with the requirements prescribed under this subsection shall not be construed as authorizing such person to conduct inspections in a manner other than that prescribed for inspections by the Secretary (or the Secretary’s representative) under subsection (e).

“(2)(A) Not later than 30 days before the date on which a horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction begins, the management of such show, exhibition, or sale or auction may notify the Secretary of the intent of the management to hire a person or persons licensed under this subsection and assigned by the Secretary to conduct inspections at such show, exhibition, or sale or auction.

“(B) After such notification, the Secretary shall assign a person or persons licensed under this subsection to conduct inspections at the horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction.

“(3) A person licensed by the Secretary to conduct inspections under this subsection shall issue a citation with respect to any violation of this Act recorded during an inspection and notify the Secretary of each such violation not later than five days after the date on which a citation was issued with respect to such violation.”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f) The Secretary shall publish on the public website of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the Department of Agriculture, and update as frequently as the Secretary determines is necessary, information on violations of this Act for the purposes of allowing the management of a horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction to determine if an individual is in violation of this Act.”.

(d) UNLAWFUL ACTS.—Section 5 of the Horse Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 1824) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “or (C) respecting” and inserting “(C), or (D) respecting”; and

(B) by striking “and (D)” and inserting “(D) causing a horse to become sore or directing another person to cause a horse to become sore for the purpose of showing, exhibiting, selling, auctioning, or offering for sale the horse in any horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction, and (E)”;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking “appoint” and inserting “hire”;

(3) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by striking “appoint” and inserting “hire”; and

(B) by striking “qualified”;

(4) in paragraph (5), by striking “appointed” and inserting “hired”;

(5) in paragraph (6)—

(A) by striking “appointed” and inserting “hired”; and

(B) by inserting “that the horse is sore” after “the Secretary”; and

(6) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(12) The use of an action device on any limb of a Tennessee Walking Horse, a

Racking Horse, or a Spotted Saddle Horse at a horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction.

“(13) The use of a weighted shoe, pad, wedge, hoof band, or other device or material at a horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction that—

“(A) is placed on, inserted in, or attached to any limb of a Tennessee Walking Horse, a Racking Horse, or a Spotted Saddle Horse;

“(B) is constructed to artificially alter the gait of such a horse; and

“(C) is not strictly protective or therapeutic in nature.”.

(e) VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES.—Section 6 of the Horse Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 1825) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, any person who knowingly violates section 5” and inserting “Any person who knowingly violates section 5 or the regulations issued under such section, including any violation recorded during an inspection conducted in accordance with section 4(c) or 4(e)”; and

(ii) by striking “more than \$3,000, or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both.” and inserting “more than \$5,000, or imprisoned for not more than three years, or both, for each such violation.”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking subparagraph (A);

(ii) by striking “(2)”; and

(iii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively, and moving the margins of such paragraphs (as so redesignated) two ems to the left; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) Any person who knowingly fails to obey an order of disqualification shall, upon conviction thereof, be fined not more than \$5,000 for each failure to obey such an order, imprisoned for not more than three years, or both.”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “section 5 of this Act” and inserting “section 5 or the regulations issued under such section”; and

(ii) by striking “\$2,000” and inserting “\$4,000”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) Any person who fails to pay a licensed inspector hired under section 4(c) shall, upon conviction thereof, be fined not more than \$4,000 for each such violation.”; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the first sentence—

(i) by inserting “, or otherwise participating in any horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction” before “for a period of not less than one year”; and

(ii) by striking “any subsequent” and inserting “the second”;

(B) by inserting before “Any person who knowingly fails” the following: “For the third or any subsequent violation, a person may be permanently disqualified by order of the Secretary, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing before the Secretary, from showing or exhibiting any horse, judging or managing any horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction, or otherwise participating in, including financing the participation of other individuals in, any horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction (regardless of whether walking horses are shown, exhibited, sold, auctioned, or offered for sale at the horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction).”; and

(C) by striking “\$3,000” each place it appears and inserting “\$5,000”.

(f) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall issue regulations to carry out the amendments made by this section, including regulations prescribing the requirements under subsection (c) of section 4 of the Horse Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 1823(c)), as amended by subsection (c)(3).

(g) SEVERABILITY.—If any provision of this Act or any amendment made by this Act, or the application of a provision to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act and the amendments made by this Act, and the application of the provisions to any person or circumstance, shall not be affected by the holding.

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5441.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 5441, the Prevent All Soring Tactics Act of 2021.

This important bill will protect horses from cruel and inhumane practices. It is necessary because today there are gaps in our animal welfare laws that have left these innocent animals vulnerable to abuse.

Despite a national ban, the abusive and barbaric practice of soring continues. Soring is a process of applying an irritating or blistering agent to the limb of a horse to accentuate the horse's gait, which may cause a horse to move with exaggerated high steps. In the 1950s and 1960s, some exhibitors used soring to improve the performance of show horses. To end this abuse, Congress passed the Horse Protection Act in 1970 to prohibit soring at horse shows, horse sales, and other horse exhibitions.

Unfortunately, despite this prohibition, soring continues today. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Inspector General found that the USDA's program for inspecting horses for soring does not adequately prevent abuse. According to the Inspector General, the program faces significant limitations. There are inadequate inspections and

enforcement as the USDA relies on industry inspectors with inherent conflicts of interest. The Inspector General also found that there is insufficient information sharing and distribution, which has made it more difficult to punish violators and enforce suspensions.

The PAST Act will help end this intolerable abuse of horses by strengthening the protections and penalties for soring. This legislation requires the USDA to prescribe regulations for the licensing, training, assignment, and oversight of people responsible for detecting and diagnosing a sore horse. It also increases penalties to imprisonment up to 3 years and fines up to \$5,000 per violation. The legislation mandates that the USDA publish on a website information on violations to improve the enforcement of suspensions.

I thank Representative COHEN for his leadership on this legislation, which passed out of the Committee on Energy and Commerce with strong bipartisan support in September.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill to help us bring an end to this cruel treatment of horses, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5441, the Prevent All Soring Tactics Act of 2021, or the PAST Act.

Soring is the practice of using chemicals, sadly inflicting pain on the front feet of a horse when they touch the ground, with the intent to cause the horse to quickly raise its feet high off the ground.

This legislation will require the Secretary of Agriculture to issue rules for licensing, training, assigning, and overseeing persons to be qualified to detect and diagnose a sore horse and will prohibit the use of certain devices on horse breeds that have a history of being sored. This legislation will also increase capabilities for the USDA to enforce soring violations under the Horse Protection Act.

□ 1630

Americans throughout the country hold horses in high regard, myself included, including constituents, of course, in my district, who care deeply for the humane treatment of these beautiful animals.

I thank Representative COHEN and the 263 cosponsors of this legislation for their work to protect horses, and I urge my colleagues to support this.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman, the ranking member, and the entire committee for their work in passing this bill out of committee. I know it was somewhat contentious. It shouldn't have been, but it was.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 5441, the Prevent All Soring Tactics Act, acronym, the PAST Act, which I proudly introduced with several prime cosponsors who worked on it, including BRIAN FITZPATRICK, JAN SCHAKOWSKY, and VERN BUCHANAN. Mr. BUCHANAN, like Mr. BILIRAKIS, is a Member of the class of 2006, of which I am, as well.

The PAST Act will shut down the cruel practice of horse soring, which has been described here on the floor. It is a horrendous practice that horse trainers have used in the Tennessee Walking, Spotted Saddle, and Racking Horse shows.

The horses have a beautiful gait to start with. They have a natural gait, a smooth, natural gait. It is revered in Tennessee. It used to be Tennessee Walkers paraded at the University of Tennessee football games to great applause and great thrill of the fans.

However, some people, to make it even more imposing, took away their natural gait, which is enough of a miracle and enjoyment to watch, and put in these soring practices to get a high gait, extremely high gait, known as the Big Lick. The Big Lick is wrong. To achieve the Big Lick, horse trainers irritate or blister a horse's forelegs through the application of caustic chemicals such as mustard oil, cut the horse's hooves painfully short, or use mechanical devices to inflict pain, all of which is reprehensible. Anyone who cares about horses realizes they have lives and senses, and as well, they suffer pain just like every other animal does.

Far too often, those involved in showing the Tennessee Walking Horses have turned a blind eye to this abusive act of the trainers. They do little to try to police it, and the penalties are so minor it does nothing to prevent this barbaric act.

I have led this legislation for years. My chief of staff, Marilyn Dillihay, has been strongly supportive of this. As we all know, we work for our constituents and then for our chief of staff.

The PAST Act would codify key elements of the Horse Protection Act rule that the USDA finalized in January of 2017 by eliminating the failed system of industry self-policing and prohibited the use of devices that are integral to the soring practice and Big Lick. It would also strengthen penalties and increase consequences for individuals caught soring a horse.

I thank Chairman PALLONE and Chairwoman SCHAKOWSKY for their support and work on this bill. I also particularly thank Priscilla Presley, Elvis' widow. Priscilla and Elvis had Tennessee Walkers at Graceland. They loved their Tennessee Walking Horses, which had a natural gait, and Priscilla has lobbied on this for many years and come to many activities, encouraging the passage of this act.

Priscilla Presley is a pretty amazing human being, and this is one of the areas where she has surpassed just being the spouse of the rock and roll

legend, Elvis Presley, and being a star in her own right in many ways.

I thank the 263 bipartisan Members who cosponsored the bill and the hundreds of stakeholder groups and individuals who have lent their support, including the Humane Society, the American Horse Council, U.S. Equestrian Federation, American Veterinary Medical Association, American Association of Equine Practitioners, the State veterinary organizations of all 50 States, National Sheriffs' Association, and the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys.

The plague of soring has marred the Tennessee Walking Horse and related breeds for more than six decades. I am proud to lead the fight to end it. We are going to end it.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE), the great State of Tennessee.

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for allowing me time to speak on this bill today.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD a letter from the Tennessee Farm Bureau and Kentucky Farm Bureau Federations opposing H.R. 5441.

NOVEMBER 14, 2022.

HONORABLE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: Please accept this letter as a statement of opposition to H.R. 5441, the Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act by the Kentucky Farm Bureau and Tennessee Farm Bureau.

The PAST Act is misleading in its strategies and purpose and sets a dangerous precedent for animal agriculture. Please take the time to review it closely and understand this initiative and the agenda of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). While the PAST Act expressly targets Walking Horses, this push by the HSUS brings to question which segment of animal-based agriculture will be targeted next.

Supporters of the PAST Act argue the bill will "eliminate soring" within the Walking Horse Industry. However, soring is essentially nonexistent today. The bill professes to end soring by banning hoof pads and action devices which are used in Walking Horse performance shows, and implies such items cause soring. Hoof pads and action devices do not cause soring. Hoof pads are used to provide protection from ground force, to accentuate movement, and balance motion. These pads are used in many breeds other than the Walking Horse including the American Paint Horse, American Quarter Horse, American Saddlebred, and Morgan breeds. An action device is a band/chain weighing six (6) ounces or less. We are not aware of a study that indicates action devices or pads produce pain or cause tissue damage.

The Tennessee Walking Horse is the most inspected horse in the world. The industry and its shows maintain a compliance rate with the Horse Protection Act that averages 99 percent. This rate is significant considering the inspection process today is almost 100 percent subjective.

The PAST Act eliminates the organizations established by Congress in the original Horse Protection Act called Horse Industry Organizations (HIOs). These independent organizations provide inspectors for shows and are trained and certified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Without HIOs, the PAST Act requires an increase in the

USDA's workforce as well as additional employees for the U.S. Department of Justice. The Congressional Budget Office numbers reflect this cost.

We urge you to not accept the mistreatment claims from years past as true today. Visit a Walking Horse farm and see the horses. Visit with a horse owner, trainer, farrier and their veterinarians. Contact your state Farm Bureau, the Tennessee Farm Bureau or the Kentucky Farm Bureau if you want assistance arranging a visit or tour.

We urge you to oppose H.R. 5441.

Thank you for your consideration of this information.

Sincerely,

ERIC MAYBERRY,
President, Tennessee
Farm Bureau.

MARK HANEY,
President, Kentucky
Farm Bureau.

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in opposition to H.R. 5441, the PAST Act. As an eighth-generation farmer and Tennessean, the grand tradition of Tennessee Walking Horses is among my earliest and fondest memories. We take great pride in the fact that the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration draws neighbors and tourists alike each year to Shelbyville, Tennessee, for our world-class showcase.

However, over the years, this grand tradition has, on occasion, been marred by a few bad actors looking to gain a competitive edge at the unfair expense of the hundreds of other Walking Horse exhibitors who do things right, and at the grossly unacceptable expense of the horses themselves that suffer from the cruel and unconscionable technique known in the industry as soring.

Those who sore our Tennessee Walking Horses compromise the integrity of the competition, put a stain on what has long been a wonderful family-oriented tradition, and by far most importantly subject our prized Tennessee Walking Horses to harm and suffering. I can assure you that we in Tennessee stand strongly against this vile technique.

My strong disgust to soring is actually why I rise today in opposition to the PAST Act. This bill is not the best solution to end this cruel practice. While I appreciate the sincere motives of those supporting this bill, I call on my colleagues to consider another better solution.

I am a proud original cosponsor of H.R. 6341, the Protecting Horses from Soring Act of 2021, authored by my friend and colleague from Tennessee, Congressman SCOTT DESJARLAIS. This bill works to end soring in another way that is fair to those acting properly and humanely and provides timely consequences for those who are not.

Inspections must be objective, but the PAST Act does not correct the subjective process currently used. My colleague's bill, H.R. 6341, creates a framework for consistent, scientific, and objective inspections. The bill also prevents conflicts of interest and suspends horses from shows if they are found to be sore.

Industry wide, the current compliance rate is between 96 and 99 percent, which is an increase from the 92 to 95 percent compliance rate that the industry had when we debated this bill last Congress. This is a 4 percent increase in less than 3 years. These compliance rates are based on USDA standards.

Overall, the Walking Horse industry has a USDA compliance rate higher than even the food industry achieves. With that record, the rate of catching bad actors at this point is, of course, extremely low. Those low rates mean we must be vigilant if we are going to find and stop the remaining bad actors. Vigilance will require a new system.

The PAST Act does not create a scientific, objective process for inspections, and until we have that, the remaining bad actors will continue to go under the radar, while those acting with integrity could be treated unfairly. The PAST Act is the wrong approach and will actually be counterproductive.

It is because of these concerns that I will oppose the PAST Act today and call upon my colleagues to also oppose it and instead stand with me in truly stopping soring by supporting H.R. 6341, the Protecting Horses from Soring Act of 2021.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), the chair of the Animal Protection Caucus.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy in allowing me to speak on this. I appreciate the leadership of Mr. COHEN. This is the culmination, hopefully, of years of struggle to try and end this barbaric practice.

There are those who are apologists for the industry. It shouldn't take this long, and repeated efforts, with hundreds of cosponsors, Congress after Congress after Congress. It has been my privilege to work with Mr. Whitfield from Kentucky, Ted Yoho, KURT SCHRADER, our colleague from Oregon, and lately the leadership of Mr. COHEN, raising the banner and moving forward.

We should have zero tolerance for this barbaric practice. Forcing horses to be tortured, looking at the devices that they use to train them to have that distinctive gait. Concrete shoes.

We have had hearing after hearing here on Capitol Hill, and whenever we have an opportunity for people to be exposed to the abuses of this industry and see these barbaric practices, people marvel that we haven't been able to stop it.

Part of the problem is the self-regulation of the industry and that there isn't a sense of urgency to stop torturing these animals.

Mr. Speaker, I have been pleased to work repeatedly with colleagues on a bipartisan basis to stop it. I don't know what the compliance rate is, whether it is 96, 97, 90. The fact is, we are talking

about hundreds of horses being tortured and for no good reason.

I strongly support the legislation from my colleague and the vast coalition that has been put in place to end this barbaric practice.

Some of the champions that have been involved in the past, like the Humane Society, have been there repeatedly, working to get the support, get the cosponsors, get it passed; but despite overwhelming support, despite a terrible record in protecting horses, it has taken far too long.

I am hopeful that this Congress will finally put an end to the barbaric practice, stop temporizing, stop apologizing for those who abuse horses and end this horrific practice once and for all.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER).

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the PAST Act. This legislation attempts to eliminate the Walking Horse industry, which is prominent in my congressional district. The vast majority of the Tennessee Walking Horse industry is located in Tennessee and Kentucky.

The Tennessee Walking Horse is the most inspected horse in the world under current law, with both pre-show and post-competition inspections performed by both USDA inspectors and horse industry organization inspectors. The PAST Act eliminates the industry inspection entities and replaces them with new employees of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Justice Department, increasing bureaucracy and cost to the taxpayer.

The PAST Act is not widely supported by the horse industry. In fact, the vast majority of the active Tennessee Walking Horse industry stakeholders in my district oppose this bill and instead support Representative SCOTT DESJARLAIS' commonsense reforms and modernization of the Horse Protection Act contained in H.R. 6341, of which I am a cosponsor.

This bill fails to promote objective, science-based inspections. I oppose the PAST Act and how it will lead to the hiring of more government bureaucrats while failing to protect the horse industry from biased inspections. I encourage my fellow Members to vote against this bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK).

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5441, the Preventing All Soring Tactics Act. As a member of the Animal Protection Caucus, I believe, like my colleagues, that we should be urging all of our colleagues to commit to ensuring our government is doing everything we can to promote animal welfare.

The bottom line is this: The antiquated and inhumane practice of soring intentionally inflicts pain on show

horses for the mere purpose of winning a ribbon in a competition. Our bipartisan PAST Act, which has passed overwhelmingly, as has been pointed out, will give a voice to these suffering animals and will finally put an end to this cruel practice by banning devices integral to soring, strengthening penalties, and also holding abusers accountable for their crimes against innocent horses.

I am proud again to join Representatives COHEN, SCHAKOWSKY, and BUCHANAN in championing this bipartisan bill; which, as was mentioned, passed this House last Congress on an overwhelming bipartisan basis. I hope that after passage today it will receive swift consideration by our colleagues in the Senate.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I wish this bill would pass in a bipartisan fashion, so that we can get it to the Senate. I yield back the balance of my time.

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Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, again, I urge support on a bipartisan basis for this important bill to protect horses, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition of H.R. 5441 the Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act of 2021. This act is an unnecessary overreach that will give the federal government the ability to inflict undue harassment upon the Tennessee Walking Horse community. The call for this kind of federal oversight has been promulgated by targeted misinformation campaigns.

This legislation will add a layer of red tape that will be purposeless, and taxpayers will likely be made to bear the burden of this cost. The Tennessee Walking Horse industry has a multibillion-dollar impact on rural communities in my state and even more specifically in my district. It provides jobs to over 20,000 people and is a tourism staple. It will place an undue ban on equipment making horse shows and events impossible to put on. Equine experts themselves have said these bans are not based on scientific evidence.

No one condones the abuse of animals, but the oversight of this industry should be left up to local officials who know it best. Therefore, I have introduced H.R. 6341 the Protecting Horses from Soring Act of 2021 which will ensure that the Tennessee Walking Horse industry is regulated by state agencies and industry experts, not Washington bureaucrats. Those who participate in the abuse of these animals must be held accountable and brought to justice. For this reason, I implore to vote no on H.R. 5441 and support sensible and practical legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5441, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. ROSE. 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.

INTEGRITY, NOTIFICATION, AND FAIRNESS IN ONLINE RETAIL MARKETPLACES FOR CONSUMERS ACT

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5502) to require online marketplaces to verify certain information regarding high-volume third party sellers of consumer products on such online marketplaces and to disclose to consumers certain contact and other information regarding such high-volume third party sellers, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5502

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 “Integrity, Notification, and Fairness in Online Retail Marketplaces for Consumers Act” or the “INFORM Consumers Act”.

SEC. 2. COLLECTION, VERIFICATION, AND DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION BY ONLINE MARKETPLACES TO INFORM CONSUMERS.

(a) COLLECTION AND VERIFICATION OF INFORMATION.—

(1) COLLECTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An online marketplace shall require any high-volume third party seller on such online marketplace’s platform to provide, not later than 10 days after qualifying as a high-volume third party seller on the platform, the following information to the online marketplace:

(i) BANK ACCOUNT.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—A bank account number, or, if such seller does not have a bank account, the name of the payee for payments issued by the online marketplace to such seller.

(II) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—The bank account or payee information required under subclause (I) may be provided by the seller in the following ways:

(aa) To the online marketplace.

(bb) To a payment processor or other third party contracted by the online marketplace to maintain such information, provided that the online marketplace ensures that it can obtain such information within 3 business days from such payment processor or other third party.

(ii) CONTACT INFORMATION.—Contact information for such seller as follows:

(I) With respect to a high-volume third party seller that is an individual, the individual’s name.

(II) With respect to a high-volume third party seller that is not an individual, one of the following forms of contact information:

(aa) A copy of a valid government-issued identification for an individual acting on behalf of such seller that includes the individual’s name.

(bb) A copy of a valid government-issued record or tax document that includes the business name and physical address of such seller.

(iii) TAX ID.—A business tax identification number, or, if such seller does not have a business tax identification number, a taxpayer identification number.

(iv) WORKING EMAIL AND PHONE NUMBER.—A current working email address and phone number for such seller.

(B) NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE; ANNUAL CERTIFICATION.—An online marketplace shall—

(i) periodically, but not less than annually, notify any high-volume third party seller on such online marketplace’s platform of the requirement to keep any information collected under subparagraph (A) current; and

(ii) require any high-volume third party seller on such online marketplace’s platform to, not later than 10 days after receiving the notice under clause (i), electronically certify that—

(I) the seller has provided any changes to such information to the online marketplace, if any such changes have occurred; or

(II) there have been no changes to such seller’s information.

(C) SUSPENSION.—In the event that a high-volume third party seller does not provide the information or certification required under this paragraph, the online marketplace shall, after providing the seller with written or electronic notice and an opportunity to provide such information or certification not later than 10 days after the issuance of such notice, suspend any future sales activity of such seller until such seller provides such information or certification.

(2) VERIFICATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An online marketplace shall—

(i) verify the information collected under paragraph (1)(A) not later than 10 days after such collection; and

(ii) verify any change to such information not later than 10 days after being notified of such change by a high-volume third party seller under paragraph (1)(B).

(B) PRESUMPTION OF VERIFICATION.—In the case of a high-volume third party seller that provides a copy of a valid government-issued tax document, any information contained in such document shall be presumed to be verified as of the date of issuance of such document.

(3) DATA USE LIMITATION.—Data collected solely to comply with the requirements of this section may not be used for any other purpose unless required by law.

(4) DATA SECURITY REQUIREMENT.—An online marketplace shall implement and maintain reasonable security procedures and practices, including administrative, physical, and technical safeguards, appropriate to the nature of the data and the purposes for which the data will be used, to protect the data collected to comply with the requirements of this section from unauthorized use, disclosure, access, destruction, or modification.

(b) DISCLOSURE REQUIRED.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An online marketplace shall—

(i) require any high-volume third party seller with an aggregate total of \$20,000 or more in annual gross revenues on such online marketplace, and that uses such online marketplace’s platform, to provide the information described in subparagraph (B) to the online marketplace; and

(ii) disclose the information described in subparagraph (B) to consumers in a clear and conspicuous manner—

(I) on the product listing page (including via hyperlink); or

(II) in the order confirmation message or other document or communication made to the consumer after the purchase is finalized and in the consumer’s account transaction history.

(B) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—The information described in this subparagraph is the following:

(i) Subject to paragraph (2), the identity of the high-volume third party seller, including—

(I) the full name of the seller, which may include the seller name or seller’s company name, or the name by which the seller or company operates on the online marketplace;

(II) the physical address of the seller; and

(III) contact information for the seller, to allow for the direct, unhindered communication with high-volume third party sellers by users of the online marketplace, including—

(aa) a current working phone number;

(bb) a current working email address; or

(cc) other means of direct electronic messaging (which may be provided to such seller by the online marketplace), provided that the requirements of this item shall not prevent an online marketplace from monitoring communications between high-volume third party sellers and users of the online marketplace for fraud, abuse, or spam.

(ii) Whether the high-volume third party seller used a different seller to supply the consumer product to the consumer upon purchase, and, upon the request of an authenticated purchaser, the information described in clause (i) relating to any such seller that supplied the consumer product to the purchaser, if such seller is different than the high-volume third party seller listed on the product listing prior to purchase.

(2) EXCEPTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), upon the request of a high-volume third party seller, an online marketplace may provide for partial disclosure of the identity information required under paragraph (1)(B)(i) in the following situations:

(i) If such seller certifies to the online marketplace that the seller does not have a business address and only has a residential street address, or has a combined business and residential address, the online marketplace may—

(I) disclose only the country and, if applicable, the State in which such seller resides; and

(II) inform consumers that there is no business address available for the seller and that consumer inquiries should be submitted to the seller by phone, email, or other means of electronic messaging provided to such seller by the online marketplace.

(ii) If such seller certifies to the online marketplace that the seller is a business that has a physical address for product returns, the online marketplace may disclose the seller’s physical address for product returns.

(iii) If such seller certifies to the online marketplace that the seller does not have a phone number other than a personal phone number, the online marketplace shall inform consumers that there is no phone number available for the seller and that consumer inquiries should be submitted to the seller’s email address or other means of electronic messaging provided to such seller by the online marketplace.

(B) LIMITATION ON EXCEPTION.—If an online marketplace becomes aware that a high-volume third party seller has made a false representation to the online marketplace in order to justify the provision of a partial disclosure under subparagraph (A) or that a high-volume third party seller who has requested and received a provision for a partial disclosure under subparagraph (A) has not provided responsive answers within a reasonable time frame to consumer inquiries submitted to the seller by phone, email, or other means of electronic messaging provided to such seller by the online marketplace, the online marketplace shall, after providing the seller with written or electronic notice and an opportunity to respond not later than 10

days after the issuance of such notice, suspend any future sales activity of such seller unless such seller consents to the disclosure of the identity information required under paragraph (1)(B)(i).

(3) **REPORTING MECHANISM.**—An online marketplace shall disclose to consumers in a clear and conspicuous manner on the product listing of any high-volume third party seller a reporting mechanism that allows for electronic and telephonic reporting of suspicious marketplace activity to the online marketplace.

(4) **COMPLIANCE.**—If a high-volume third party seller does not comply with the requirements to provide and disclose information under this subsection, the online marketplace shall, after providing the seller with written or electronic notice and an opportunity to provide or disclose such information not later than 10 days after the issuance of such notice, suspend any future sales activity of such seller until the seller complies with such requirements.

(C) **ENFORCEMENT BY FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.**—

(1) **UNFAIR AND DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES.**—A violation of subsection (a) or (b) by an online marketplace shall be treated as a violation of a rule defining an unfair or deceptive act or practice prescribed under section 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)).

(2) **POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall enforce subsections (a) and (b) in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were incorporated into and made a part of this section.

(B) **PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.**—Any person that violates subsection (a) or (b) shall be subject to the penalties, and entitled to the privileges and immunities, provided in the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.).

(3) **REGULATIONS.**—The Commission may promulgate regulations under section 553 of title 5, United States Code, with respect to the collection, verification, or disclosure of information under this section, provided that such regulations are limited to what is necessary to collect, verify, and disclose such information.

(4) **AUTHORITY PRESERVED.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of the Commission under any other provision of law.

(d) **ENFORCEMENT BY STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—If the attorney general of a State has reason to believe that any online marketplace has violated or is violating this section or a regulation promulgated under this section that affects one or more residents of that State, the attorney general of the State may bring a civil action in any appropriate district court of the United States, to—

(A) enjoin further such violation by the defendant;

(B) enforce compliance with this section or such regulation;

(C) obtain civil penalties in the amount provided for under subsection (c);

(D) obtain other remedies permitted under State law; and

(E) obtain damages, restitution, or other compensation on behalf of residents of the State.

(2) **NOTICE.**—The attorney general of a State shall provide prior written notice of any action under paragraph (1) to the Commission and provide the Commission with a copy of the complaint in the action, except in any case in which such prior notice is not

feasible, in which case the attorney general shall serve such notice immediately upon instituting such action.

(3) **INTERVENTION BY THE COMMISSION.**—Upon receiving notice under paragraph (2), the Commission shall have the right—

(A) to intervene in the action;

(B) upon so intervening, to be heard on all matters arising therein; and

(C) to file petitions for appeal.

(4) **LIMITATION ON STATE ACTION WHILE FEDERAL ACTION IS PENDING.**—If the Commission has instituted a civil action for violation of this section or a regulation promulgated under this section, no State attorney general, or official or agency of a State, may bring a separate action under paragraph (1) during the pendency of that action against any defendant named in the complaint of the Commission for any violation of this section or a regulation promulgated under this section that is alleged in the complaint. A State attorney general, or official or agency of a State, may join a civil action for a violation of this section or regulation promulgated under this section filed by the Commission.

(5) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—For purposes of bringing a civil action under paragraph (1), nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the chief law enforcement officer, or official or agency of a State, from exercising the powers conferred on such chief law enforcement officer, or official or agency of a State, by the laws of the State to conduct investigations, administer oaths or affirmations, or compel the attendance of witnesses or the production of documentary and other evidence.

(6) **ACTIONS BY OTHER STATE OFFICIALS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In addition to civil actions brought by attorneys general under paragraph (1), any other officer of a State who is authorized by the State to do so, except for any private person on behalf of the State attorney general, may bring a civil action under paragraph (1), subject to the same requirements and limitations that apply under this subsection to civil actions brought by attorneys general.

(B) **SAVINGS PROVISION.**—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to prohibit an authorized official of a State from initiating or continuing any proceeding in a court of the State for a violation of any civil or criminal law of the State.

(e) **SEVERABILITY.**—If any provision of this section, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the remainder of this section and the application of such provision to other persons not similarly situated or to other circumstances shall not be affected by the invalidation.

(f) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **COMMISSION.**—The term “Commission” means the Federal Trade Commission.

(2) **CONSUMER PRODUCT.**—The term “consumer product” has the meaning given such term in section 101 of the Magnuson-Moss Warranty—Federal Trade Commission Improvement Act (15 U.S.C. 2301) and section 700.1 of title 16, Code of Federal Regulations.

(3) **HIGH-VOLUME THIRD PARTY SELLER.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “high-volume third party seller” means a participant on an online marketplace’s platform who is a third party seller and, in any continuous 12-month period during the previous 24 months, has entered into 200 or more discrete sales or transactions of new or unused consumer products and an aggregate total of \$5,000 or more in gross revenues.

(B) **CLARIFICATION.**—For purposes of calculating the number of discrete sales or transactions or the aggregate gross revenues under subparagraph (A), an online marketplace shall only be required to count sales or transactions made through the online marketplace and for which payment was proc-

essed by the online marketplace, either directly or through its payment processor.

(4) **ONLINE MARKETPLACE.**—The term “online marketplace” means any person or entity that operates a consumer-directed electronically based or accessed platform that—

(A) includes features that allow for, facilitate, or enable third party sellers to engage in the sale, purchase, payment, storage, shipping, or delivery of a consumer product in the United States;

(B) is used by one or more third party sellers for such purposes; and

(C) has a contractual or similar relationship with consumers governing their use of the platform to purchase consumer products.

(5) **SELLER.**—The term “seller” means a person who sells, offers to sell, or contracts to sell a consumer product through an online marketplace’s platform.

(6) **THIRD PARTY SELLER.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “third party seller” means any seller, independent of an online marketplace, who sells, offers to sell, or contracts to sell a consumer product in the United States through such online marketplace’s platform.

(B) **EXCLUSIONS.**—The term “third party seller” does not include, with respect to an online marketplace—

(i) a seller who operates the online marketplace’s platform; or

(ii) a business entity that has—

(I) made available to the general public the entity’s name, business address, and working contact information;

(II) an ongoing contractual relationship with the online marketplace to provide the online marketplace with the manufacture, distribution, wholesaling, or fulfillment of shipments of consumer products; and

(III) provided to the online marketplace identifying information, as described in subsection (a), that has been verified in accordance with that subsection.

(7) **VERIFY.**—The term “verify” means to confirm information provided to an online marketplace pursuant to this section, which may include the use of one or more methods that enable the online marketplace to reliably determine that any information and documents provided are valid, corresponding to the seller or an individual acting on the seller’s behalf, not misappropriated, and not falsified.

(g) **RELATIONSHIP TO STATE LAWS.**—No State or political subdivision of a State, or territory of the United States, may establish or continue in effect any law, regulation, rule, requirement, or standard that conflicts with the requirements of this section.

(h) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This section shall take effect 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5502.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 5502, the Integrity, Notification, and Fairness in Online Retail

Marketplaces for Consumers Act, also known as the INFORM Consumers Act.

In the 21st century, e-commerce is no longer a luxury but a necessity for millions of Americans seeking to purchase household essentials. For thousands of businesses across the country, e-commerce sites serve as a vital platform connecting American producers to consumers worldwide.

Regrettably, online marketplaces have become pervasive sources of counterfeit, defective, and unsafe goods. The Government Accountability Office found that 20 of 47 items it purchased from third-party sellers on popular consumer websites were counterfeit.

Sixteen percent of counterfeit products seized in fiscal year 2018 posed a direct risk to health, safety, and security. Such frauds steal market share from legitimate businesses and can cause severe reputational damage to the companies and products they impersonate.

The INFORM Consumers Act will help curb the deluge of counterfeit, defective, and unsafe products on e-commerce sites. The bill requires these sites to display critical information about high-volume sellers, including contact information, business tax ID numbers, and working email addresses and phone numbers. Such transparency will help prevent those fake and unsafe goods from getting into our homes and empower consumers and businesses to seek recourse.

I commend Consumer Protection and Commerce Subcommittee Chairwoman SCHAKOWSKY and Ranking Member BILIRAKIS for coming together on this bill. It passed out of the Energy and Commerce Committee by voice vote last November.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to help protect consumers by supporting this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5502, the INFORM Consumers Act.

This is a big deal, Mr. Speaker. It really is. We worked really hard to get consensus on this particular bill in the Energy and Commerce Committee.

I commend the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee; the ranking member, CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS; and the chair of the subcommittee, my colleague, JAN SCHAKOWSKY. She is the lead sponsor of the bill, and I am the Republican sponsor of the bill. It is a great accomplishment.

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when physical storefronts were unable to open their doors, many consumers turned to online marketplaces for all of their goods. However, with such a rise in online purchases, criminals saw a new way to prey upon innocent consumers.

These storefronts were now bombarded with thousands of similar products with little to no information about the background of the goods.

Some of the goods available were originally stolen from retail stores, counterfeited—and this happens in all our congressional districts—counterfeited from a foreign nation, or even made with dangerous components or forced labor.

That is why this bipartisan, bicameral legislation is necessary to increase transparency and safety online, and I am proud to help co-lead this bill with the chairwoman of the subcommittee, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

If H.R. 5502 is signed into law—and I think it will be—consumers and storefronts will be armed with information to understand where these products come from and whether they are real or not. That is not much to ask for.

It also provides protections to our small sellers and local mom-and-pop stores whose privacy is protected while also being able to operate with clear guidelines and one set of rules for doing business in all 50 States.

The INFORM Consumers Act establishes a uniform national standard to protect consumers from bad actors and online marketplaces by requiring certain large sellers of new and used consumer goods to verify their contact information, such as email, phone number, and business tax ID, within days of being listed as a high-volume seller on an online platform.

I thank, again, Chairwoman SCHAKOWSKY, for working with me in good faith to make this a strong product with broad consensus from Congress—it takes both parties to get these things done—and from a diverse set of stakeholders like Etsy, Poshmark, eBay, Amazon, but also retail industry leaders such as Home Depot, Walgreens, and Walmart.

The support around this legislation demonstrates what happens when Congress works together to move important legislation that will protect all Americans. That was our goal. I am glad to see that this bill will move forward in regular order, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation out of the House today. Let's get this signed into law as soon as possible.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), the sponsor of this legislation and the chair of the subcommittee from which it came.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank so many in the Energy and Commerce Committee for their hard work. I want to say a special thank-you to GUS BILIRAKIS, who is the Republican cosponsor of this very important and bipartisan legislation. I also want to ditto all the words that he said about this important bill.

What we know is that the INFORM Consumers Act, H.R. 5502, protects American consumers when they shop online.

Counterfeit and stolen goods have become readily available on popular

websites like Amazon and Facebook and beyond. As a result, American consumers face new dangers when they shop online. Counterfeit and stolen products defraud consumers, and they pose a risk to consumers' health, their safety, and their security.

Online marketplaces are failing right now to crack down on fraudsters and scammers. Instead, they actually have fueled high-profile cases of organized crime rings that are now brazenly hitting retail stores.

We have heard from consumers that Mr. BILIRAKIS mentioned. Many retailers are being hurt by this.

These stolen goods too often end up on the online marketplaces, and the INFORM Consumers Act puts an end to the online sale of dangerous products and stolen goods and limits criminal behavior.

The bill holds online marketplaces accountable for enabling criminal activity on their platforms. It requires online marketplaces to verify the identity of their third-party sellers. Verifying sellers lets Americans have confidence now, which we want them to have, when they shop online.

The bill empowers the Federal Trade Commission to enforce compliance with this bill.

I am grateful to my colleague, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and to all of those who have been supporting this legislation to finally protect consumers. I am proud that this bill has bipartisan support, and I certainly urge all of my colleagues to support the INFORM Consumers Act, H.R. 5502. Let's vote for it today.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the staff for doing an outstanding job on this bill. It was not easy to find consensus, but we persevered. We did not give up. We didn't give up, and guess what? The American people are going to be benefiting from this. That is the most important thing. Our constituents will benefit from this bill.

Again, my subcommittee staffer, Tim Kurth, has done an outstanding job, along with the other members of the staff and Jan's staff, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I hope we pass this bill unanimously, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, as you can see, this bill is truly bipartisan, and I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote in favor of 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 New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5502, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. ROSENDALE. 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.

□ 1700

GUIDANCE CLARITY ACT OF 2021

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 533) to require a guidance clarity statement on certain agency guidance, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 533

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 “Guidance Clarity Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. GUIDANCE CLARITY STATEMENT REQUIRED.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—Each agency, as defined in section 551 of title 5, United States Code, shall include a guidance clarity statement as described in subsection (b) on any guidance issued by that agency under section 553(b)(3)(A) of title 5, United States Code, on and after the date that is 30 days after the date on which the Director of the Office of Management and Budget issues the guidance required under subsection (c).

(b) GUIDANCE CLARITY STATEMENT.—A guidance clarity statement required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) be displayed prominently on the first page of the document; and

(2) include the following: “The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and do not, of themselves, bind the public or the agency. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.”.

(c) OMB GUIDANCE.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall issue guidance to implement this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 533 would require Federal agencies to include a guidance clarity statement on the first page of guidance documents.

Federal Rules, regulations, and guidance are complex, even at best of

times. For most Americans who do not spend hours per day reading through the Federal Register, guidance documents can be very confusing. This simple, good government bill will help clarify for the public that agency guidance is intended to help guide the implementation of Federal regulations, not to act as additional legally binding rules.

I thank Representative LUETKEMEYER and Ranking Member COMER for working with us to perfect this bill. This is a bipartisan bill which has passed the Senate by unanimous consent.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation so it can be sent to the President's desk, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, agency guidance serves an important function in the Federal regulatory system. Agency guidance helps regulated parties and the public understand how agencies will interpret the laws and administer their programs.

However, agency guidance can be—and has been—abused. For example, agencies can use guidance documents to intimidate small businesses and individuals into compliance with agency views, sometimes under the threat of enforcement action.

Small businesses and the American people often do not have the legal resources or necessary background to know when an agency statement is binding law. It is tough for the public to determine what agency statements are binding and what are not.

Even Federal agencies have a tough time understanding the difference. They have been known to try to start enforcement actions based simply on guidance. Agencies have also been known to attempt to issue binding rules by quietly slipping rule language into guidance documents. This clearly bypasses the Administrative Procedure Act's requirements that were put in place to protect regulated individuals and small businesses.

The courts coined the term “non-rule rule” to describe this Big Government sleight of hand, and the courts have rightly struck down such rules that only appeared in agency guidance.

The Guidance Clarity Act offers a simple solution to these problems. It requires agency guidance documents to include the following explicit statement:

“The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and do not, of themselves, bind the public or the agency.

“This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.”

With that stroke of the pen, gone will be the days in which agencies can use guidance documents to force small businesses and individuals to comply with nonbinding agency views. Gone too will be the days of the agencies try-

ing to issue non-rule rules that bypass the Administrative Procedure Act's requirements for legislative rules.

I thank Senator LANKFORD for his hard work to make this legislation the law of the land.

I also thank the sponsor of the companion bill in this House, the ranking member of the Small Business Committee, BLAINE LUETKEMEYER, who has worked tirelessly on this bill since he first introduced it during the 115th Congress.

Also, I thank House Oversight and Reform Committee Chairwoman MALONEY, Ranking Member JAMES COMER, and Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Chairman GARY PETERS for their critical efforts to help make passage of this bill a bipartisan success.

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from Pennsylvania has no further speakers, then I am prepared to close.

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER).

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 533, the Guidance Clarity Act, which is identical to my bill, H.R. 1508, which passed the House by voice vote on October 20, 2021, almost 13 months ago.

American small businesses have enough to worry about, especially in this economy. Inflation, supply chain issues, and labor shortages have made it exceedingly difficult to be a small business owner right now. These are people who don't have time to worry about keeping track of the latest government red tape, which is made more difficult by the conflation of agency guidance with regulations or laws.

The purpose of guidance is to assist Americans in understanding rules and regulations and give them suggestions on how to adhere to them. However, it is important to note that guidance is not law, nor is it enforceable as law—it is simply a suggestion.

Guidance is not approved by Congress, nor does it go through the Federal rulemaking process which allows for public input and legal scrutiny of agency actions. Therefore, citizens are free to take the suggestion or completely ignore it.

Unfortunately, over the years, regulators have threatened punitive action against businesses for not following guidance. I am not talking about people breaking the law or ignoring Federal regulations who should certainly face consequences. I am talking about small businesses who are following Federal regulations but simply are not doing it in the manner certain regulators would prefer—the way their guidance suggested regulations be implemented. That is unacceptable, and it is illegal. Regulators have no legal authority to enforce guidance, and any

attempt to do so is an egregious abuse of power.

To make matters worse, thousands and thousands of guidance documents are constantly being produced. So instead of achieving their intended goal of providing clarity, they are making the waters even murkier.

With some regulators enforcing guidance while others do not, small businesses and entrepreneurs are falling deeper into the regulatory maze of the Federal Government.

The Guidance Clarity Act is a simple, straightforward solution. It ensures the first page of guidance documents includes a plain language statement declaring that guidance is not law, nor can it be legally enforced as law. This might seem like a small fix, but this critical statement clarifies for individuals, businesses, and regulators alike that guidance is meant to be helpful. It is a suggestion that can be put in place or disregarded.

It will help regulators do their jobs more efficiently and small businesses, who lack the resources to employ teams of expensive lawyers, to continue to strengthen our workforce and economy.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairwoman MALONEY and Ranking Member COMER for bringing the Guidance Clarity Act to the floor. I also thank Senator LANKFORD for getting the bill across the finish line in the Senate. This is a commonsense solution that will help American small business owners, who are the drivers of our economy and embodiment of the American Dream, do what they do best.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to vote in favor of the Guidance Clarity Act.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, thanks to the Guidance Clarity Act, small business owners and individuals across the country will soon have the confidence that agency guidance—however helpful and clarifying it may be—is not legally binding.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this necessary bipartisan legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of S. 533, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 533.

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. ROSENDALE. 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.

CIVIL RIGHTS COLD CASE INVESTIGATIONS SUPPORT ACT OF 2022

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3655) to amend the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act of 2018 to extend the termination date of the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3655

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 “Civil Rights Cold Case Investigations Support Act of 2022”.

SEC. 2. CIVIL RIGHTS COLD CASE RECORDS REVIEW BOARD EXTENSION OF TERM.

Section 5(n)(1) of Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act of 2018 (44 U.S.C. 2107 note; Public Law 115-426) is amended—

(1) by striking “4 years” and inserting “7 years”; and

(2) by striking “4-year period” and inserting “7-year period”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3655, a bill to amend the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act of 2018 to extend the termination date of the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board.

I would like to begin by celebrating that this bill is bipartisan. It is co-lead by Senators JON OSSOFF and TED CRUZ, and a companion bill was introduced in the House by my colleague, BOBBY RUSH of Illinois.

The Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act of 2018 requires public disclosure of cold case files from the civil rights era that are still in the possession of Federal agencies. The 2018 law also created a review board tasked to review any agency decisions to delay public disclosure of civil rights cold case files within their possession.

As part of their examination, the review board will submit recommendations to the President, who has final decisionmaking authority over the public records disclosure. Under current law, the review board will be terminated by January of 2024.

This bill, S. 3655, revises the initial term of the board from 4 to 7 years with an optional extension year, if needed. The extension is critical because the work of the review board has been delayed.

The prior administration did not nominate members to the board when the bill was enacted in 2018. The current administration nominated board members in 2021, and all members were confirmed by February of 2022.

As a result of delays in nomination and confirmation of the review board members, S. 3655 provides the board additional time to complete its mission.

This bill has bipartisan support. In addition, the National Archives supports this bill because the extensions will ensure that review board members have enough time to complete their assignments.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of the Civil Rights Cold Case Investigations Support Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, in 2019, President Trump signed the Civil Rights Cold Case Investigations Support Act into law after it passed with broad bipartisan support in Congress.

The act directed the National Archives and Records Administration to make a collection of previously sealed civil rights cold case records available for public scrutiny. It also required the National Archives to establish a process for Federal agencies to transmit cold case records—older records from about 1940 to 1979—to the National Archives.

To do this, an independent agency review board was established to review the National Archives’ civil rights cold case records and evaluate which public record disclosures should be postponed.

The review board is also charged with investigating cold case records and requesting relevant documents held by government agencies and the courts be transferred to the National Archives. However, this board was not fully formed until this year, leaving the review board with less time than Congress intended before it terminates at the end of 2024.

The bill before us today, the Civil Rights Cold Case Investigations Support Act, will extend the review board’s term until 2027. This extension will allow the board to increase the volume of cold case documents made available to the public. This will enable journalists, students, and others to lend their expertise to help investigate and resolve unsolved civil rights cold cases.

According to the Department of Justice, about 115 civil rights cases remain unsolved, and the older the cases become, the less likely they will ever be solved.

The 2019 law was necessary to establish a specific process for addressing cold case records instead of having citizens rely on the Freedom of Information Act to directly request individual

records from law enforcement agencies. The Freedom of Information Act is a valuable Federal records transparency tool, but it is not designed for enabling efficient access to open criminal cases.

□ 1715

Every cold case that is solved as a result of this legislation will provide long-awaited answers to the surviving family members of the victims and bring about resolution to the local communities where these crimes occurred.

S. 3655 will ensure that the review board has the necessary time to complete its critical work.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Senators TED CRUZ and JON OSOFF for moving this bipartisan legislation through the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank the House Committee on Oversight and Reform Chairwoman CAROLYN MALONEY and Ranking Member JAMES COMER for their support.

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH), from the First District, chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy with the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the House sponsor of the Civil Rights Cold Case Investigation Support Act of 2022.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair of the committee, my good friend Congresswoman MALONEY.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3655, the Civil Rights Cold Case Investigation Support Act of 2022. This bill is the Senate companion to my bill, H.R. 6818, and I am pleased beyond measure to support its passage on the floor today.

Four years ago, Mr. Speaker, Congress passed my bill, the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act of 2018, into law. That law created a collection of civil rights cold case records to be disclosed to the public, helping to resolve by bringing closure to the more than 100 unsolved cold cases from the civil rights era. It was designed to bring some small measure of comfort to families and communities that have waited far, far too long for answers about the loss of their loved ones so many decades ago. I hope today's passage will bring some sense of closure to these families.

A crucial part of that bill was the creation of the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board, which serves as an independent oversight agency that reviews requests to delay making civil rights cold case records public.

President Biden has appointed, and the Senate has confirmed, some wonderfully qualified nominees to the board, but since the previous administration failed to appoint any members to the board, the board is about to run out of its legislative time before it can truly bring its mission to fruition.

Mr. Speaker, the bill passed in the Senate, and I see no reason why the House cannot pass the bill today. I urge passage of the bill today.

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN), from the 12th District, who is the chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security with the Committee on Homeland Security.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Black Americans who were assaulted, terrorized, and killed during the Jim Crow era.

Our Nation has a long and troubling history of failing to deliver justice for victims of racially motivated violence. One could draw a direct line from the lynching of Emmett Till in 1955 to the killing of Trayvon Martin just 10 years ago. In neither case were the killers convicted.

Willie James Howard, Lamar Smith, and Reverend George W. Lee are but a few of the countless Black Americans who were killed for the crime of existing while Black in the Jim Crow South. In not one of these cases was a single perpetrator brought to justice.

I am proud of the students from Hightstown, New Jersey, in my district, who took time to write the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act with my friend, Congressman BOBBY RUSH. I am now calling on this Chamber to pass the Civil Rights Cold Case Investigation Support Act, which will extend authorization of that legislation.

By passing this bipartisan bill, we can begin to heal the wounds of our past and demonstrate that racist violence has no place in America.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan bill continues to make information regarding cold cases available to the public. The American people deserve transparency from their Federal Government. I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of S. 3655, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3655.

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.

DISASTER RESILIENCY PLANNING ACT

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend

the rules and pass the bill (S. 3510) to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance with respect to natural disaster resilience, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3510

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 "Disaster Resiliency Planning Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and
(B) the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives.

(2) AGENCY.—The term "agency" has the meaning given the term in section 306 of title 5, United States Code.

(3) DIRECTOR.—The term "Director" means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(4) REAL PROPERTY.—The term "real property" has the meaning given the term in section 1.856–10 of title 26, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto.

SEC. 3. GUIDANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall establish guidance requiring the head of each agency to incorporate natural disaster resilience into real property asset management and investment decisions made by the agency.

(b) CONTENTS.—The guidance required under subsection (a) shall direct each head of an agency to incorporate assessments of natural disaster risk information conducted by the agency, such as from vulnerability and other risk assessments, into real property asset management investment decisions made by the agency.

(c) MODIFICATION.—The Director may periodically update the guidance required under subsection (a) as the Director may determine necessary for the purpose of further enhancing natural disaster resilience.

(d) CONSULTATION.—In developing the guidance required under subsection (a), the Director may consult with appropriate entities, including—

(1) the Comptroller General of the United States;

(2) the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency; and

(3) any other relevant entities, as determined by the Director.

(e) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that describes the guidance required under subsection (a).

(2) BRIEFING.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall brief the appropriate congressional committees on the implementation of the guidance required under subsection (a) across agencies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 3510, the Disaster Resiliency Planning Act, was introduced by my colleague and counterpart in the Senate, Chairman GARY PETERS, along with Senator RICK SCOTT, and it passed the Senate by unanimous consent in June. Our colleague, Representative TROY CARTER, is leading companion legislation in the House, which is also bipartisan.

This commonsense, bipartisan bill takes action to implement an important recommendation made by the Government Accountability Office last year. In 2021, GAO issued a report on the efforts of Federal agencies to be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars by mitigating the impact of natural disasters on Federal property and assets like buildings, roads, bridges, and levees.

In the 5 years leading up to the report, billions of taxpayer dollars were spent repairing the damage done to Federal assets by natural disasters, and current trends demonstrate that the frequency and severity of natural disasters are increasing as a result of climate change.

As the largest real property owner in the United States, the Federal Government's fiscal exposure to natural disasters is deeply concerning. The Federal Government lacks a comprehensive, strategic approach to resilience, which is key to addressing this risk and protecting taxpayer dollars.

Fortunately, agencies have made good progress in creating action plans that identify extreme weather vulnerabilities and steps that can be taken to address them. GAO's report recommended the crucial next step that agencies should be directed to incorporate these assessments into their asset management investment decisions.

That recommendation remains open today, but this bipartisan bill will ensure that it finally gets done. Within 180 days, OMB would be required to establish guidance for the incorporation of natural disaster resilience into the real property asset management and investment decisions of Federal agencies. As recommended by GAO, agencies would be required to incorporate their natural disaster risk information assessments into such decisions.

This commonsense, good government bill has been informed by years of GAO analysis and will protect taxpayer dollars by prioritizing cost-effective resilience strategies. We must implement

these action plans before the next superstorm or wildfire deals yet another blow to our Federal assets.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 3510, the Disaster Resiliency Planning Act.

Hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and wildfires cause significant damage across the country to Federal real property assets. According to the Government Accountability Office, over the past 5 years, Congress has spent billions of dollars to repair Federal assets damaged by natural disasters. Yet, for decades, Federal agencies have made minimal efforts to prepare for natural disasters and make their real property assets more resilient. This is unacceptable.

Billions in taxpayer dollars have been wasted to repair assets left unprepared in the face of reoccurring and predictable risk posed by natural disasters and extreme weather events.

Natural disasters are a fact of life, and the U.S. Government maintains a sprawling footprint of buildings and facilities across our great Nation. We must recognize these realities. The Disaster Resiliency Planning Act does this.

It tasks the Office of Management and Budget with issuing guidance requiring Federal agencies to incorporate natural disaster resilience planning into their real property asset management and investment decisions. This will help save taxpayer dollars and ensure Federal agencies are acting in a fiscally responsible manner.

Mr. Speaker, this is a commonsense, bipartisan bill that will save taxpayer dollars and ensure Federal property recovers from natural disasters more quickly.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of S. 3510, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3510.

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.

□ 1730

METROPOLITAN AREAS PROTECTION AND STANDARDIZATION ACT OF 2021

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend

the rules and pass the bill (S. 1941) to direct the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to standardize the use of core-based statistical area designations across Federal programs, to allow between 120 and 180 days for public comment on any proposed change to such designations, and to report on the scientific basis and estimated impact to Federal programs for any proposed change to such designations, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1941

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 "Metropolitan Areas Protection and Standardization Act of 2021" or the "MAPS Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Federal programs use core-based statistical area delineations to determine the delivery of Federal services, benefits, and funding to people in the United States, such as in criteria for eligibility or distribution.

(2) Core-based statistical area delineations provide a nationally consistent set of standards for collecting, tabulating, and publishing Federal statistics for geographic areas, and they are not intended for any public or private sector non-statistical uses such as program administration or service delivery.

(3) Updates to core-based statistical area delineations may cause widespread disruption to the delivery of Federal services, benefits, and funding to people in the United States based on the reliance of Federal programs on these delineations.

(4) There does not exist any comprehensive list of Federal programs that rely on core-based statistical area delineations. Such a list is valuable for the study of how Federal services, benefits, and funding are distributed to people in the United States.

(5) Increased transparency on the impacts of any update to core-based statistical area delineations may be overly burdensome due to the anticipated variety of Federal programs that rely on these delineations. Any requirement for complete disclosure of these impacts prior to implementation of new delineations may unintentionally cause the existing delineations to ossify.

(6) In order to prevent any disruption to service delivery of Federal programs based on updates to core-based statistical area delineations, and ensure the independence of Federal statistical policymaking, Congress must sever the link between future updates to core-based statistical area delineations and any automatic impact on Federal programs that rely on these delineations.

SEC. 3. PURPOSE.

This purpose of this Act is to ensure—

(1) transparency in how core-based statistical area delineations are used in domestic assistance programs; and

(2) independence of the Office of Management and Budget in establishing and updating core-based statistical area delineations.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AGENCY.—The term "agency" has the meaning given the term in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—The term "Comptroller General" means the Comptroller General of the United States.

(3) CORE-BASED STATISTICAL AREA.—The term "core-based statistical area" has the

meaning given the term by the Office of Management and Budget in the Notice of Decision entitled “2020 Standards for Delineating Core-Based Statistical Areas”, published in the Federal Register on July 16, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 37770), or any successor to that Notice.

(4) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(5) **DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**—The term “domestic assistance program” has the meaning given the term in section 6101 of title 31, United States Code.

(6) **OPEN GOVERNMENT DATA ASSET.**—The term “open Government data asset” has the meaning given the term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code.

SEC. 5. NON-PROPAGATION OF CORE-BASED STATISTICAL AREA DELINEATIONS.

(a) **AMENDMENT.**—Chapter 63 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 6309. Non-propagation of core-based statistical area delineations

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Beginning on the date of enactment of the MAPS Act of 2021, and notwithstanding any other provision of law, any change to the standards of core-based statistical area delineations pursuant to section 3504(e) of title 44—

“(1) shall not propagate automatically for any non-statistical use by any domestic assistance program, including any such use as required through—

“(A) statutory reference to any core-based statistical area delineation; or

“(B) administrative or regulatory reference to any core-based statistical area delineation; and

“(2) shall propagate for any non-statistical use by any domestic assistance program only—

“(A) if a relevant agency determines that such a propagation—

“(i) supports the purposes of the program; and

“(ii) is in the public interest; and

“(B) through affirmative adoption through notice-and-comment rulemaking pursuant to section 553 of title 5.

“(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—The definitions in section 4 of the MAPS Act of 2021 shall apply to this section.”

(b) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections for chapter 63 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 6308 the following:

“6309. Non-propagation of core-based statistical area delineations.”

SEC. 6. TRANSPARENCY OF NON-STATISTICAL USES OF CORE-BASED STATISTICAL AREA DELINEATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 6102(a)(2) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraph (G) as subparagraph (H);

(2) in subparagraph (F), by striking “and” at the end; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the following:

“(G) uses of core-based statistical area (as defined in section 4 of the MAPS Act of 2021) delineations (as chosen from standardized categories of uses determined by the Director), for purposes including prime recipient and subrecipient eligibility for, and distribution of, any Federal service, benefit, or funding; and”.

(b) **CONTENT REQUIREMENTS.**—In collecting and reviewing the information required under section 6102(a)(2)(G) of title 31, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a) of this section, the Director shall include as standardized categories—

(1) whether the most current core-based statistical area delineation has been affirma-

tively adopted pursuant to section 6309 of title 31, United States Code, as added by this Act;

(2) which historical core-based statistical area delineation was maintained, in cases where an updated delineation has not been affirmatively adopted pursuant to section 6309 of title 31, United States Code, as added by this Act;

(3) what purpose the core-based statistical area delineation serves, including—

(A) to determine eligibility for any Federal service, benefit, or funding;

(B) to determine distribution of any Federal service, benefit, or funding; and

(C) any other standardized category of purpose determined by the Director;

(4) whether the use of core-based statistical area delineation directly concerns any—

(A) prime recipient of any Federal service, benefit, or funding; and

(B) subrecipient of any Federal service, benefit, or funding; and

(5) the date when the information collected in this subsection was last updated.

(c) **ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.**—The Director shall ensure that the information collected and reviewed under section 6102(a)(2)(G) of title 31, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a) of this section, shall be—

(1) publicly accessible as an open Government data asset;

(2) presented in a user-friendly visual format with search and download capabilities;

(3) easily discoverable by the public on relevant government websites; and

(4) updated not less frequently than once every year.

(d) **IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE.**—The requirements of this section shall be fully implemented not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 7. INDEPENDENCE, INTEGRITY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF CORE-BASED STATISTICAL AREA DELINEATIONS.

Section 3504(e) of title 44, United States Code, is amended by—

(1) in paragraph (8)(B)(ii), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (9)(B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(10) ensure that any change to the standards of core-based statistical area (as defined in section 4 of the MAPS Act of 2021) delineations pursuant to this subsection shall—

“(A) be accompanied by a public report that explains—

“(i) the scientific basis, criteria, and methodology for such change to existing standards, including clear quantitative thresholds for determining any future statistical re-delineations; and

“(ii) the opinions of domestic and international experts in statistics and demographics, including government experts at the Bureau of the Census and other relevant agencies, who were consulted regarding such change to existing standards;

“(B) not be influenced by any non-statistical considerations such as impact on program administration or service delivery; and

“(C) not propagate automatically for any non-statistical use by any domestic assistance program (as defined in section 4 of the MAPS Act of 2021).”.

SEC. 8. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.

Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives a report that—

(1) assesses the completeness, timeliness, quality, accuracy, accessibility, and useful-

ness of the information reported pursuant to section 6 and the amendment made by section 6; and

(2) identifies any Federal programs, including any domestic assistance programs or other programs, that—

(A) use core-based statistical area delineations for any non-statistical purpose; and

(B) as of the date of the report, are not reported pursuant to section 6 and the amendment made by section 6; and

(3) if appropriate, includes any recommendations for Federal agencies or Congress based on the findings described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1941, the Metropolitan Areas Protection and Standardization, or MAPS Act, focuses on a little-known process at the Office of Management and Budget that may seem arcane at first glance, but which has profound implications for the way the Federal Government serves the people of this Nation.

OMB maintains a set of standards to ensure consistency across the Federal Government in how agencies classify statistics by geographic area. These standards determine whether a county is considered “metropolitan” based on its proximity to an urban core. Although these standards are supposed to be used solely for statistical purposes, they are frequently used by Federal agencies to distribute funding, benefits, and programs.

Every 10 years, OMB considers recommendations from an interagency technical advisory committee, with input from the public, to ensure the continued relevance of the standards.

The recommendations for 2020 standards initially included a proposal that, for a county to qualify as metropolitan, it must be near an urban core with a population of 100,000, doubling the current threshold of 50,000 people.

Because this threshold hasn’t been changed since it first came into use in 1949, the proposed change would have converted 142 metropolitan statistical areas from the metropolitan designation to the nonmetropolitan designation.

According to the Brookings Institute, this would have impacted 19 million people and increased the share of

America's population residing in nonmetro counties from 14 percent to around 20 percent.

There is currently no inventory of all Federal programs that rely on the standard to distribute services, benefits, and funding, and no process for ensuring that agencies are equipped to review the impacts of potential changes on such programs.

As a result, what should be a purely statistical standards update actually has unknown and potentially profound ramifications for Federal program administration, warranting further review.

While the Standards Review Committee and OMB ultimately chose not to recommend or include this change in the final 2020 Standards, examination of the recommendation make clear that Congress must ensure that these statistical standards can be updated without the risk of unintended consequences cascading across the Federal programs and policies built around them.

To accomplish this, the MAPS Act would clarify that changes to the standards would not propagate automatically for any nonstatistical use by a domestic assistance program. Changes for nonstatistical uses could only take effect if the relevant agency determines that they support the purposes of the program and are in the public interest, and if such changes are affirmatively adopted through notice-and-comment rulemaking.

The bill would also create an inventory of the current uses and impacts of the standards in distributing Federal services, benefits, funding, creating transparency for both policymakers and the public.

In short, the MAPS Act puts in place the safeguards needed to ensure that the Federal Government's bedrock statistical standards can be updated purely based on scientific criteria, without the influence of nonstatistical considerations.

At the same time, it ensures that Federal policies and programs continue to operate as intended and are updated with careful consideration of their unique goals and impacts.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 1941, the Metropolitan Areas Protection and Standardization Act, or MAPS Act, is a technical but important bill.

Maintaining government-wide statistical standards may seem mundane, but these standards have real-world consequences. We saw this last year when the Office of Management and Budget tried to make updates to the definition of core-based statistical areas. Out of the 734 public comments submitted, 712 comments opposed definitional change. As a result, the Office of Management and Budget delayed its proposed recommendation.

Municipalities and other organizations should not feel caught off guard by standards changes in the future. The MAPS Act will help provide transparency if the Office of Management and Budget tries to revise core-based statistical area standards in the future.

This bill will provide better visibility into how these statistical standards are used in Federal domestic assistance programs to determine funding eligibility; and the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National Rural Health Association, and the National Association of Counties all agree that this legislation is needed.

I thank Senators ROB PORTMAN and JERRY MORAN, as well as Chairman GARY PETERS, for moving this bipartisan bill through the Senate.

I also take a moment to thank CAROLYN MALONEY, the chairwoman, and Ranking Member JAMES COMER for advancing this legislation through the House Oversight Committee. I support this legislation, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from Pennsylvania has no further speakers, then I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1941 will provide transparency into the Office of Management and Budget's work in the area of statistical standards. This bill does not restrict OMB from continuing its work keeping important statistical standards up to date. Instead, it provides transparency into future revisions of core-based statistical area standards. It also provides visibility into use of such standards in Federal domestic assistance programs.

I once again encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of S. 1941, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1941.

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.

ARMY SPECIALIST JOSEPH "JOEY" W. DIMOCK II POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7899) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 75

Commerce Drive in Grayslake, Illinois, as the "Army Specialist Joseph 'Joey' W. Dimock II Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7899

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

SECTION 1. ARMY SPECIALIST JOSEPH "JOEY" W. DIMOCK II POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 75 Commerce Drive in Grayslake, Illinois, shall be known and designated as the "Army Specialist Joseph 'Joey' W. Dimock II Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Army Specialist Joseph 'Joey' W. Dimock II Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7899, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 75 Commerce Drive in Grayslake, Illinois, as the "Army Specialist Joseph 'Joey' Dimock II Post Office Building."

Army Specialist Dimock was born in Libertyville on May 25, 1989, to Joseph and Ellen Dimock. He grew up in Wildwood, Illinois, and graduated from Warren Township High School. Growing up, he was a member of the Wildwood Presbyterian Church, Boy Scout Troop 672, and the Warren Blue Devils swim team.

In the spring of his senior year of high school, Army specialist Dimock joined the Army and began service in August of 2007. He served for nearly 3 years with the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

On July 10, 2010, during his third overseas deployment and second deployment in Afghanistan supporting Operation Enduring Freedom, he died in a noncombat explosion at an ammunition holding facility.

Army Specialist Dimock received several awards during his service to this country, including the Bronze Star Medal and Army Commendation Medal.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and service of

Army Specialist Dimock by naming a Post Office in Grayslake, Illinois, after him.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7899, which honors Army Specialist Joseph "Joey" W. Dimock, IL.

Joey, as he was known to his loved ones, grew up in Wildwood, Illinois, where he was actively involved with his church, swim team, and Boy Scout Troop 672, earning the rank of Eagle Scout.

He joined the Army his senior year of high school and served for nearly 3 years with the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

He was serving his third overseas deployment, his second deployment to Afghanistan, when he died on July 10, 2010, in a noncombat explosion at an ammunition holding facility.

For his time in service, he was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Army Commendation Medal.

Specialist Dimock was a true American patriot that paid the ultimate price in service to a grateful Nation. I encourage my colleagues to support this bill honoring his sacrifice and service.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from Pennsylvania has no further speakers, then I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill honoring an American war hero, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 7899, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7899.

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.

RYAN J. CUMMINGS POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6917) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 301 East Congress Parkway in Crystal Lake, Illinois, as the "Ryan J. Cummings Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6917

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

SECTION 1. RYAN J. CUMMINGS POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 301 East Congress Parkway in Crystal Lake, Illinois, shall be known and designated as the "Ryan J. Cummings Post Office Building".

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6917, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 301 East Congress Parkway in Crystal Lake, Illinois, as the Ryan J. Cummings Post Office Building.

Marine Corporal Ryan John Cummings was born on April 6, 1984, and grew up to be a Cub Scout, honor student, wrestler, and a French horn player.

On September 10, 2001, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and completed basic training in San Diego. He was then stationed at Camp Pendleton, California, in 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Division, ultimately earning the rank of corporal.

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Corporal Cummings earned many awards, including the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, the Global War on Terror Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, and the Purple Heart, among others.

He was deployed three times in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He made the ultimate sacrifice on June 3, 2006, when he was killed.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and service of Corporal Cummings by naming a post office in Crystal Lake, Illinois, after him, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6917, which would name a post office in Crystal Lake, Illinois, for Marine Corporal Ryan J. Cummings.

Corporal Cummings was born in Cook County, Illinois, in 1984. Marine Corporal Cummings was set on becoming a marine and, according to his family, signed up for duty on September 10, 2001, the night before the September 11 attacks on our Nation.

He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Division Expeditionary Force based at Camp Pendleton. Sadly, he died from wounds sustained while conducting combat operations in Iraq on his third deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was only 22 years old.

Corporal Cummings was posthumously awarded a Purple Heart in recognition of having made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our grateful Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill honoring Marine Corporal Ryan J. Cummings, a true American war hero.

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 6917, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6917.

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.

HOWARD ARTHUR TIBBS POST OFFICE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2473) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 275 Penn Avenue in Salem, Ohio, as the "Howard Arthur Tibbs Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2473

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

SECTION 1. HOWARD ARTHUR TIBBS POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 275 Penn Avenue in Salem, Ohio, shall be known and designated as the "Howard Arthur Tibbs Post Office".

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2473 to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 275 Penn Avenue in Salem, Ohio, as the Howard Arthur Tibbs Post Office.

Corporal Howard Arthur Tibbs was born on September 23, 1919, in Salem, Ohio. His family had a long history of military service, dating back to the Civil War, when Mr. Charles Howard, Sr., grandfather of Corporal Tibbs, fought in the Grand Army of the Republic.

Following this tradition of service, in World War II, Corporal Tibbs served as one of the Tuskegee Airmen, where he served in the 99th Fighter Squadron and the 477th Medium Composite Group.

In recognition of his military contributions and bravery, Corporal Tibbs was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 2007.

After his time in the military, Corporal Tibbs continued his career in private service with a career at the Internal Revenue Service. On January 26, 1986, he passed away in Newark, Ohio.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring the bravery of Corporal Howard Tibbs by naming a post office in Salem, Ohio, after him.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2473, which honors Corporal Howard Arthur Tibbs.

Corporal Tibbs was one of the storied Tuskegee Airmen and served in the 99th Fighter Squadron and the 477th Medium Composite Group in World War II.

He was born and raised in Salem, Ohio, where his family had long resided. After his time in the military, he graduated from Youngstown College and enjoyed a long career with the Internal Revenue Service.

In recognition of his bravery and contributions to this country, Corporal Tibbs was posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 2007 after passing away on January 26, 1986, in Newark, Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this bill honoring an American veteran and a true hero.

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to

close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of Corporal Howard Arthur Tibbs, one of our Nation's esteemed World War II Tuskegee Airmen.

Corporal Howard Tibbs was no stranger to military service. The Tibbs family's military history dates back to the Civil War, when Charles Henry, Sr., of Salem, Ohio, the grandfather of Howard Tibbs, fought with the Ohio Colored Troops in the Grand Army of the Republic.

In addition to dutifully serving our Nation's military efforts, the Tibbs family has actively participated in other patriotic endeavors, including helping to organize the local movement to guarantee the right to vote for women and educating young people about the military, cultural, and political contributions of Black Americans.

Corporal Howard Tibbs continued his family's legacy of duty, serving our Nation when he joined the 99th Fighter Squadron and the 477th Medium Composite Group during World War II.

In 2007, he posthumously received the Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of his military contributions and bravery, both at home and abroad.

Today, the House has the opportunity to honor Corporal Howard Arthur Tibbs by passing H.R. 2473 and naming the Salem post office after him.

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill honoring an American veteran and hero, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 2473, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2473.

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.

ROY E. DICKENS POST OFFICE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7518) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 23200 John R Road in Hazel Park, Michigan, as the "Roy E. Dickens Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7518

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

SECTION 1. ROY E. DICKENS POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 23200 John R Road in Hazel Park, Michigan, shall be known and designated as the "Roy E. Dickens Post Office".

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7518 to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 23200 John R Road in Hazel Park, Michigan, as the Roy E. Dickens Post Office.

Mr. Roy Eugene Dickens was born on August 29, 1940, in Lola, Kentucky, to Corbett and Byrdie Dickens. From 1962 to 1965, he served in the U.S. Army. Following his service, he joined the Hazel Park Police Department in 1967. He retired from duty in 1995.

After retirement, he went to work as a court officer until 2010, making him the longest-serving public official in the history of Hazel Park, Michigan. Mr. Dickens is remembered for his 43 years of service to the Hazel Park community.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring the service of Mr. Dickens by naming a post office in Hazel Park, Michigan, after him.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7518, which would name a Michigan post office for Roy Dickens.

Mr. Dickens was a dedicated public servant in Hazel Park, Michigan. In fact, he was the longest-serving public official in Hazel Park, starting in 1967 when he joined the Hazel Park Police Department after serving in the United States Army. He retired from the police department in 1995 and then went

to work as a court officer until 2010. He is remembered fondly for his 43 years of service to the local community.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, which honors a community civil servant and law enforcement officer.

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), my friend and colleague from Michigan's Ninth District, the vice chair of the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, Central Asia, and Non-proliferation.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 7518, designating the post office at 23200 John R Road in Hazel Park, Michigan, as the Roy E. Dickens Post Office.

Roy Dickens was a U.S. Army vet and longtime resident of Hazel Park, Michigan, where he was deeply involved in the community. He joined the Hazel Park Police Department in 1967 and served as an officer for 28 years, but Mr. Dickens was not finished. Following his tenure at the police department, he went on to serve proudly as a court officer for another 15 years until he retired in 2010.

Roy Dickens worked for the city of Hazel Park for 43 years. That makes him the longest-serving employee in the history of the city, a record he holds posthumously to this very day.

Mr. Dickens was known in southeast Michigan as a public servant, community leader, and good neighbor to all. He made a positive impact in the lives of those around him in so many ways and is remembered fondly by many people—first and foremost, his beloved wife, Marilyn, and children, Gina and David.

Roy Dickens left a legacy as a pillar of the Hazel Park community and someone who embodied the essence of public service. I am proud to honor him for generations to come with this post office dedication.

I thank Hazel Park Mayor Michael Webb, City Manager Ed Klobucher, and other civic leaders for collaborating with me on choosing the very best recipient for this honor. From this day forward, the post office on John R will remind residents of Hazel Park and surrounding towns of an unassuming leader who helped ensure the safety, peace, and tranquility of the community for everyone, Roy Dickens.

□ 1800

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill honoring a great public servant, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 7518, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House

suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7518.

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.

GARY JAMES FLETCHER POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3826) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1304 4th Avenue in Canyon, Texas, as the "Gary James Fletcher Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3826

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

SECTION 1. GARY JAMES FLETCHER POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1304 4th Avenue in Canyon, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Gary James Fletcher Post Office Building".

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3826, a bill to designate the facility of the U.S. Postal Service located at 1304 4th Avenue in Canyon, Texas, as the Gary James Fletcher Post Office Building.

Mr. Fletcher was born and raised in Amarillo and Canyon, Texas. In 1969, Mr. Fletcher served a tour in Vietnam and was awarded three medals: the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

After his tour, he was an active member of his community as a philanthropist, banker, and rancher. His work ethic around the ranch and banking was inspirational to those around him.

Mr. Fletcher passed away on October 29, 2020, leaving behind his wife, three children, and six grandchildren.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Fletcher by naming a post office in Canyon, Texas, after him.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3826, which names a post office in Canyon, Texas, for Gary James Fletcher.

Mr. Fletcher was born in nearby Amarillo, Texas, and grew up in Canyon, Texas. He joined the United States Army as a specialist E5 and was a decorated Vietnam war veteran, having been awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Upon his return to Canyon, Texas, he attended West Texas State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration and Finance. He put his degree to work as a successful banker and rancher. He also devoted countless hours to volunteering, including with the United Way and the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Most importantly, he was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill honoring a great veteran and American hero, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. JACKSON).

Mr. JACKSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and the legacy of Mr. Gary Fletcher.

Gary Fletcher embodied everything it means to be a west Texan: hard work, God-fearing, and service oriented. He lived a life of service before self, with a steadfast commitment to his family, his country, and his community.

He was an Amarillo-born hero who joined the U.S. Army in 1968. He served his country in the worst of times, during the Vietnam conflict, providing lifesaving medical care to countless young men who would have never returned home otherwise.

He was decorated for his service with the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Mr. Fletcher later returned home to the Texas Panhandle and built a successful career as a banker and rancher and was a well-respected citizen in his community.

He was also an active member of the Washington Avenue Christian Church and a longtime volunteer for organizations like the United Way and the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

He left behind an incredible legacy that will be carried on by his loving family, and now he will be forever memorialized through today's congressional action.

I humbly ask my colleagues to vote in favor of my bill to officially name the U.S. Post Office in Canyon, Texas, the Gary James Fletcher Post Office Building.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, honoring an American veteran, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of S. 3826, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3826.

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.

CORA REYNOLDS ANDERSON POST OFFICE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3884) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 404 U.S. Highway 41 North in Baraga, Michigan, as the "Cora Reynolds Anderson Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3884

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

SECTION 1. CORA REYNOLDS ANDERSON POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 404 U.S. Highway 41 North in Baraga, Michigan, shall be known and designated as the "Cora Reynolds Anderson Post Office".

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3884, a bill to designate the facil-

ity of the United States Postal Service located at 404 U.S. Highway 41 North in Baraga, Michigan, as the Cora Reynolds Anderson Post Office.

Ms. Cora Reynolds Anderson was born in L'Anse, Michigan, on April 10, 1882, and was a member of the Ojibwa Native American Tribe. She attended public school in the Upper Peninsula and the Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas, where she received her teacher's diploma. After graduating, she came back and taught at the Zeba Mission in the Upper Peninsula.

Ms. Anderson organized the first public health service in Baraga County, Michigan, and helped secure their first public health nurse.

In 1924, she became the first woman elected to the Michigan House of Representatives and the first Native American woman elected to serve in a State legislature. Her election came only 4 years after women were granted the right to vote.

During her term in office, Ms. Anderson chaired the Industrial Home for Girls Committee and was on multiple committees, including Agriculture, Insurance, and the Northern State Normal School.

She was an advocate for public health, primarily focused on fighting against alcoholism and tuberculosis. She also fought to recognize Native American fishing rights on Huron Bay.

After her tenure as a representative, Ms. Anderson served as an officer for the Upper Peninsula in the Michigan State Grange. In 2000, the Michigan House of Representatives named the new house office building in Lansing in her honor. She was also inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in 2001.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Anderson by naming a post office in Baraga, Michigan, after her, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3884, which honors Cora Reynolds Anderson, the first woman elected to the Michigan House of Representatives and the first Native American woman elected to serve in a State legislature.

Ms. Anderson was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in 1924, just 4 years after women were granted the right to vote.

During her sole term in office, she chaired the Industrial Home for Girls Committee. She was also an advocate for public health, helping Baraga County, Michigan, secure its first public health nurse and organize the county's first public health service.

As a member of the Ojibwa Native American Tribe, she also fought to recognize Native American fishing rights on Huron Bay.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill honoring this loyal public servant, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of S.

3884, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3884.

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.

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 6 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1841

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 6 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
Washington, DC, November 9, 2022.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a scanned copy of a letter received from Mr. J. Bradley King and Ms. Angela M. Nussmeyer, Co-Directors of the Indiana Election Division, indicating that, according to the unofficial results for the Special Election held November 8, 2022, the Honorable Rudolph (Rudy) Yakym III was elected for Representative to Congress for the Second Congressional District, State of Indiana.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.

Enclosure.

STATE OF INDIANA,
INDIANA ELECTION DIVISION,
Indianapolis, Indiana, November 9, 2022.

Hon. CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR Ms. JOHNSON: This is to advise you that the unofficial results of the Special Election held on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 for Representative in Congress from the 2nd Congressional District of Indiana show that Rudolph (Rudy) Yakym III received 118,688 of the total number of votes cast for that office (187,320).

It would appear from these unofficial results that Rudolph (Rudy) Yakym III was elected as Representative in Congress from the 2nd Congressional District of Indiana.

To the best of our knowledge and belief at this time, there is no contest to this election.

As soon as the official results are certified to this office by all counties involved, an official Certificate of Election will be prepared for transmittal as required by law.

Sincerely,

J. BRADLEY KING,
Co-Director.
ANGELA M. NUSSMEYER,
Co-Director.

SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE RUDY YAKYM III, OF INDIANA, AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Indiana, the Honorable RUDY YAKYM III, be permitted to take the oath of office today.

His certificate of election has not yet arrived, but there is no contest and no question has been raised with regard to his election.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. Will the Representative-elect and the members of the Indiana delegation present themselves in the well.

All Members will rise and the Representative-elect will please raise his right hand.

Mr. YAKYM appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations, you are now a Member of the 117th Congress.

WELCOMING THE HONORABLE RUDY YAKYM III TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, as the dean of the Indiana delegation, I am honored to welcome the newest Hoosier to serve here in the people's House, Congressman RUDY YAKYM.

Before his election last week, he worked as a vice president at a commercial real estate firm and, most recently, as a director of growth initiatives at an Indiana logistics and supply chain company. He was also nominated by former Governor Mike Pence to serve on the Indiana Judicial Nominating Commission.

Our new colleague will be representing Indiana's Second Congressional District, and he is supported by his wife, Sallyann, and their three children.

I welcome the Congressman to the House and look forward to working with him to advance Hoosier values.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. YAKYM).

Mr. YAKYM. Madam Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege to deliver this maiden speech from the well of the House Chamber.

First, I acknowledge the late Congresswoman Jackie Walorski. Jackie delivered results for the district, and she had the utmost respect for her colleagues in this room. This was never more evident than at her funeral services in August, where one-third of the room was filled with hundreds of Members, Republicans and Democrats, from all over the country.

□ 1845

Jackie fostered relationships on both sides of the aisle and worked collaboratively to get things done for our families and businesses. She was particularly dedicated to our veterans, our U.S. military, and our allies in Israel.

As her successor, I will work every day to honor her memory and uphold her impeccable work ethic.

Since the founding of our Nation, a little over 10,000 people have been elected to this body, and it is the honor of a lifetime to stand here tonight representing Indiana's Second Congressional District.

I am grateful to my beautiful wife, Sallyann, as well as our three children, Elle, Rudy IV, and Eliza. We also have other family and close friends who are in the gallery this evening.

To the Hoosiers who have placed their trust in me to best represent them in this House—the people's House—thank you. I ask for your continued prayers for wisdom as we work to make our Nation a more perfect Union.

Yes, there are real policy issues that need to be addressed, such as our massive deficit and 40-year high inflation rates. But just as importantly, our country needs unity. And it starts right here.

I often tell my kids to stop complaining and do the hard things. That is how we grow, how we learn, and how we succeed in life. And I will apply that same approach here in Congress.

It is time to roll up our sleeves and do the hard work collaboratively to find common ground and forge solutions for Hoosiers. That is what Jackie did, and I can't wait to get started.

May God bless the United States of America.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath to the gentleman from Indiana, the whole number of the House is 433.

PREVENT ALL SORING TACTICS ACT OF 2021

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5441) to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, 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 (Mr. VEASEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 304, nays 111, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 478]

YEAS—304

Adams	Cuellar	Johnson (TX)
Aguilar	Curtis	Jones
Allred	Davids (KS)	Joyce (OH)
Amodei	Davis, Danny K.	Joyce (PA)
Arrington	Dean	Kahele
Auchincloss	DeFazio	Kaptur
Axne	DeGette	Katko
Bacon	DeLauro	Keating
Balderson	DelBene	Keller
Banks	DeSaulnier	Kelly (IL)
Barragán	Diaz-Balart	Kelly (PA)
Bass	Dingell	Khanna
Beatty	Doggett	Kildee
Bera	Doyle, Michael	Kilmer
Beyer	F.	Kim (CA)
Bilirakis	Duncan	Kim (NJ)
Bishop (GA)	Ellzey	Kind
Blumenauer	Escobar	Kirkpatrick
Blunt	Eshoo	Krishnamoorthi
Bonamici	Espallat	Kuster
Bost	Estes	LaHood
Bourdeaux	Evans	Lamb
Bowman	Fitzgerald	Langevin
Boyle, Brendan	Fitzpatrick	Larsen (WA)
F.	Fletcher	Larson (CT)
Brown (MD)	Flores	Latta
Brown (OH)	Foster	LaTurner
Brownley	Frankel, Lois	Lawrence
Buchanan	Franklin, C.	Lawson (FL)
Buck	Scott	Lee (CA)
Budd	Fulcher	Lee (NV)
Burchett	Gaetz	Leger Fernandez
Bush	Gallagher	Levin (CA)
Bustos	Gallago	Levin (MI)
Butterfield	Garamendi	Lieu
Calvert	Garbarino	Lofgren
Carbajal	Garcia (CA)	Lowenthal
Cárdenas	Garcia (IL)	Luetkemeyer
Carey	Garcia (TX)	Luria
Carson	Jimenez	Lynch
Carter (GA)	Golden	Mace
Carter (LA)	Gomez	Malinowski
Cartwright	Gonzales, Tony	Malliotakis
Case	Gonzalez,	Maloney,
Casten	Vicente	Carolyn B.
Castor (FL)	Gottheimer	Maloney, Sean
Castro (TX)	Granger	Mann
Chabot	Green, Al (TX)	Manning
Cherfilus-	Griffith	Mast
McCormick	Harder (CA)	McBath
Chu	Hayes	McCaul
Cicilline	Higgins (NY)	McClain
Clark (MA)	Hill	McCollum
Clarke (NY)	Horsford	McEachin
Cleaver	Houlahan	McGovern
Clyburn	Hoyer	McHenry
Cohen	Hudson	McNerney
Cole	Huffman	Meeks
Connolly	Issa	Meijer
Conway	Jackson Lee	Meng
Cooper	Jacobs (CA)	Meuser
Correa	Jacobs (NY)	Mfume
Courtney	Jayapal	Moolenaar
Craig	Jeffries	Moore (UT)
Crawford	Johnson (GA)	Moore (WI)
Crow	Johnson (OH)	Morelle

Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Oberholte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascarell
Payne
Peltola
Perlmuter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rodgers (AL)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz

Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan (NY)
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sempolinski
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi

NAYS—111

Aderholt
Allen
Armstrong
Babin
Baird
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Boebert
Brady
Brooks
Burgess
Cammack
Carl
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Comer
Crenshaw
Davidson
DesJarlais
Donalds
Dunn
Emmer
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fleischmann
Flood
Foxy
Gibbs

Gohmert
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Guest
Guthrie
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hern
Herrell
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Huizenga
Jackson
Johnson (LA)
Jordan
Kelly (MS)
Kustoff
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lesko
Letlow
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Massie
McCarthy
McClintock
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)

Miller-Meeks
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Nehls
Norman
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Scalise
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Spartz
Steube
Stewart
Taylor
Tiffany
Timmons
Van Dwyne
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wilson (SC)
Womack

NOT VOTING—17

Bishop (NC)
Bucshon
Cheney
Costa
Davis, Rodney
Demings

Gonzalez (OH)
Grijalva
Grothman
Herrera Beutler
Himes
Johnson (SD)

Kinzing
Matsui
McKinley
Newhouse
Yarmuth

□ 1913

Messrs. OWENS, LONG, and JOHN-SON of Louisiana changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

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.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE
RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Axne (Stevens)
Carter (GA)
(Fleischmann)
Courtney
(Perlmuter)
Craig (Stevens)
DeFazio
(Pallone)
Gonzalez,
(Neguse)
Vicente
(Correa)
Graves (MO)
(Fleischmann)
Harder (CA)
(McNerney)
Jacobs (NY)
(Sempolinski)
Johnson (GA)
(Correa)
Johnson (TX)
(Stevens)

Joyce (PA)
(Smucker)
Katko (Kim
(CA)
Keating (Neguse)
Kirkpatrick
(Pallone)
Krishnamoorthi
(Neguse)
LaMalfa
(Fleischmann)
Lawrence
(Stevens)
Lawson (FL)
(Evans)
Lee (NV)
(Pappas)
Luria (Beyer)
McEachin
(Beyer)
Morelle (Meng)

Newman (Correa)
Palazzo
(Bilirakis)
Payne (Pallone)
Porter (Neguse)
Rice (NY) (Meng)
Rice (SC)
(Valadao)
Ryan (OH)
(Correa)
Sewell (Cicilline)
Sherrill
(Pallone)
Sires (Pallone)
Torres (NY)
(Cicilline)
Wild (Evans)
Wilson (FL)
(Cicilline)

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE
CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR
OF H.R. 7229

Mr. HERN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the first sponsor of H.R. 7229, a bill originally introduced by Representative WALORSKI of Indiana, for the purpose of adding cosponsors and requesting re-printings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

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

There was no objection.

CELEBRATING SIGMA GAMMA RHO
SORORITY'S CENTENNIAL

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to salute my sorority, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated, for its centennial celebration on November 12, 2022. We were founded in Indianapolis, Indiana, at Butler University November 12, 1922, by seven illustrious schoolteachers. Now we are led by the wonderful Grand Basileus Rasheeda Liberty, and we will embark on our next 100 with greater service, greater progress.

COMMEMORATING VETERANS DAY

(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 commemorate Veterans Day, a day in which we remember all those who have served our Nation in uniform.

This day was originally commemorated by President Woodrow Wilson in 1919 as Armistice Day to remember all those who served in World War I.

In 1954, Armistice Day became Veterans Day in a proclamation by President Dwight Eisenhower to honor those who had served in uniform. In 1968, Congress officially designated Veterans Day as a Federal holiday.

We owe a sincere debt of gratitude to all those who have served and are cur-

rently serving in our military. Your sacrifice, dedication, and courage to our country is the reason we are able to live our lives in safety and freedom today.

In my home State of Pennsylvania alone, there are almost 800,000 veterans, with 300,000 being wartime veterans, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking all of our veterans for their service to our country. May we always remember those who have made sacrifices to preserve our freedoms and our way of life.

THE IMPORTANCE OF VOTING

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank every parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle and neighbor that took a child with them to the polling place during this past election.

This simple act of bringing a child to their polling place and letting them see how a vote is cast is a powerful form of education about the United States of America for the aspiring generations.

Involving children, too, in seeing how you fill out a mail-in ballot is a lesson every person can teach. It teaches youngsters how important voting is as an adult and allows children to absorb and learn directly about liberty, about individual freedom, and about meeting one's civic responsibility to community and Nation.

Voting demonstrates fundamental reverence to Old Glory. Long may she fly high.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF DR. MATTELIA BENNETT
GRAYS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Dr. Mattelia Bennett Grays.

I wear white today, having just come from Houston and celebrating her life as the International 18th president of Alpha Kappa Alpha and a major leader in The Links organization; what a remarkable woman, a woman of her era, 91 years old; graduated from Dillard, the University of Michigan, and Pacific University with a doctorate degree, a strong and vivacious woman, elegant but, as well, determined to teach children a better way.

A pioneering civil rights leader who, in fact, provided Alpha Kappa Alpha chartered groups on schools that were majority not integrated but majority Anglo, if you will, institutions that were not historically Black colleges. But she was strong and wanted to present a wonderful opportunity for young women, wanted them to have the same kind of leadership that she did.

She was the daughter of a preacher and a wonderful mother that invested in her the love of faith in God; and she was a person who benefited so many young people in her era and in her time.

Yes, this fierce lover of life, strong, determined leader, has now taken her wings, and I was pleased to be at her homegoing service to be able to honor her daughter Karen, her brother, Cornel, and Joan, her sister, grandson, Kristopher, his wife, and their children, and all her other relatives.

I was delighted that the mayor of the city of Houston named this day, November 14, 2022, as Dr. Mattelia Grays Day. I am here to honor her on the floor of the House. May she rest in peace. May her spirit continue to lift us up as we celebrate our 18th international president, Dr. Grays, as she rests in peace and goes home to join her honey-do, her husband.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and praise Dr. Mattelia Bennett Grays for a life well lived—where she was dedicated to public service through education and was a member of the renowned Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority Incorporated.

Dr. Mattelia Bennett Grays was a remarkable woman, a mother, a community leader, and a woman of God who passed away this month at the age of 91.

Dr. Bennett Grays was the 18th International President of Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority Incorporated serving from 1970 to 1974.

Dr. Mattelia Bennett Grays was born on July 26, 1931, in Houston, Texas, to the Reverend Abel B. Bennett and Mrs. Delcia McNeal Bennett.

During her formative years, Dr. Mattelia Bennett Grays and her family attended Pleasant Hill Baptist Church until her father built from the ground up a small church, St. John Missionary Baptist Church, in Chappell Hill, Texas.

Dr. Mattelia Bennett Grays attended schools in the Houston Independent School District and graduated in 1948 as salutatorian of her graduating class at Booker T. Washington High School. She was blessed to have earned and received a full-ride scholarship to attend Dillard University in New Orleans, Louisiana, where she thrived and excelled in her studies.

Dr. Mattelia Bennett Grays pledged and was initiated into Beta Upsilon Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. She received her B.A. degree from Dillard University in 1952 and was married to Horace Wesley Grays, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated that same year. A beautiful daughter, Karen Grays-Gray was born to this wonderful couple.

Dr. Mattelia Bennett Grays received her M.A. degree with honors in special education from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She later received her Doctorate in educational administration from Pacific University in Sacramento, California, in 1985. She returned to Houston to teach in the Houston Independent School District. After several years with HISD, she began working summers with the University of Houston as a supervisor for laboratory experiences for teachers of culturally deprived children.

Upon graduation from the University of Michigan, Dr. Grays transferred her sorority

membership to Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter in Houston, where she served as chapter president and South Central Regional Director. She was the youngest person ever elected as International President of the sorority in 1968 and was installed at the sorority's biennial national convention in 1970.

A little-known fact is Dr. Grays, during the Civil Rights era, was instrumental and the driving force in chartering 14 undergraduate chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated on predominantly white universities. During her term as Supreme Basileus, she chartered a total of 56 undergraduate chapters at predominantly white universities.

Dr. Mattelia Bennett Grays was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Horace Grays, sisters, Barbara Jefferson, Willie Mae Sanford, and brother Randolph McBride.

Dr. Mattelia Bennett Grays leaves to honor her legacy her loving daughter, Karen Grays-Gray (Benjamin Gray, son-in-law), her siblings, Cornel Joseph Jefferson, Sr., Joan Bennett McBride, a grandson, Kristopher John Howard (Jennifer Howard, granddaughter-in-law), and great-grandchildren, Karolina Austen Howard, and Kristopher John Howard, Jr., and a host of cousins, nephews, and niece and friends.

Her work and deeds are most deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of the United States Congress.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MICHAEL SCHRAGE

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

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I rise to congratulate Michael Schrage, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Centier Bank as he celebrates his 50th work anniversary.

Under his outstanding leadership, Centier Bank has been recognized as the largest private, family-owned bank in the State of Indiana and, since 2007, has annually been named one of Indiana's best places to work. I believe that this is due to Michael's value-based work ethic that fosters a supportive and thoughtful work environment.

I also appreciate that Michael has proven himself to be a pillar in the community, volunteering his time and efforts to countless charity organizations.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Michael Schrage on this incredible accomplishment and his commitment to our region and helping those in need.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 1 of House Resolution 1230, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 7 o'clock and 26 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

OATH OF OFFICE MEMBERS, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AND DELEGATES

The oath of office required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the United States, and as provided by section 2 of the act of May 13, 1884 (23 Stat. 22), to be administered to Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates of the House of Representatives, the text of which is carried in 5 U.S.C. 3331:

“I, AB, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.”

has been subscribed to in person and filed in duplicate with the Clerk of the House of Representatives by the following Member of the 117th Congress, pursuant to the provisions of 2 U.S.C. 25:

RUDY YAKYM III, Second District of Indiana.

BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF PAYGO LEGISLATION

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 5441, the PAST Act of 2021, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

EC-5850. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Privacy Act of 1974; Implementation [Docket ID: DoD-2020-OS-0094] (RIN: 0790-AL17) received October 25, 2022, 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.

EC-5851. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Department of State Rescission of Determination Regarding Sudan (DFARS Case 2021-D027) [Docket: DARS-2021-0019] (RIN: 0750-AL46) received October 25, 2022, 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.

EC-5852. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Representation Relating to Compensation of Former DoD Officials (DFARS Case 2021-D030) [Docket: DARS-2022-0022] (RIN: 0750-AL52) received October 14, 2022, 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.

EC-5853. A letter from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's advisory opinion — Fair Credit Reporting; Facially False Data received October 21, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-5854. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's Major final rule — Listing Standards for Recovery of Erroneously Awarded Compensation [Release Nos.: 33-11126; 34-96159; IC-31732; File No. S7-12-15] (RIN: 3235-AK99) November 3, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-5855. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's Major final rule — Tailored Shareholder Reports for Mutual Funds and Exchange-Traded Funds; Fee Information in Investment Company Advertisements [Release Nos.: 33-11125; 34-96158; IC-34731; File No. S7-09-20] (RIN: 3235-AM52) received November 3, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-5856. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's Major final rule — Enhanced Reporting of Proxy Votes by Registered Management Investment Companies; Reporting of Executive Compensation Votes by Institutional Investment Managers [Release Nos.: 33-11131; 34-96206; IC-34745; File No.: S7-11-21] (RIN: 3235-AK67) received November 7, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-5857. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, Division of Regulatory Services, Office of Secondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final regulations — Institutional Eligibility Under the Higher Education Act of 1965, as Amended; Student Assistance General Provisions; Federal Perkins Loan Program; Federal Family Education Loan Program; and William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program [Docket ID: ED-2021-OPE-0077] (RIN: 1840-AD53; 1840-AD59; 1840-AD70; 1840-AD71) received November 7, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

EC-5858. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing Benefits received October 4, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

EC-5859. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel of Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Change of Address; Technical Amendments (RIN: 1212-AB55) received October 14, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

EC-5860. A letter from the Attorney for Regulatory Affairs Division, Office of General Counsel, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's direct final rule — Safety Standard for Infant Bath Tubs [Docket No.: CPSC-2015-0019] received October 4, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-5861. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's regulatory guide — Guide for Assessing, Monitoring, and Mitigating Aging Effects on Electrical Equipment Used in Production and Utilization Facilities [Regulatory Guide 1.248, Revision 0] received October 7, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-5862. A letter from the Chief, Direct Investment Division, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Direct Investment Surveys: BE-12, Benchmark Survey of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States [Docket No.: 220922-0196] (RIN: 0691-AA93) received October 25, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-5863. A letter from the Chief, Direct Investment Division, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Direct Investment Surveys: BE-13, Survey of New Foreign Direct Investment in the United States [Docket No.: 220923-0197] (RIN: 0691-AA92) received October 25, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-5864. A letter from the Chief, Balance of Payments Division, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — International Services Surveys: Renewal of and Changes to BE-120 Benchmark Survey of Transactions in Selected Services and Intellectual Property With Foreign Persons, and Clarifying When BE-140 and BE-180 Benchmark Surveys Are Conducted [Docket No.: 220901-0181] (RIN: 0691-AA91) received October 14, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-5865. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment [Docket ID: DOD-2016-OS-0045] (RIN: 0790-AL50) received October 25, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5866. A letter from the Senior Wildlife Inspector, Office of Law, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Civil Penalties; 2022 Inflation Adjustments for Civil Monetary Penalties [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-LE-2022-0004; FFW09L00200-FX-LE12200900000] (RIN: 1018-BF67) received October 4, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5867. A letter from the Division Chief, Regulatory Development, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — General Technical, Organizational, Conforming, and Correcting Amendments to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations [Docket No.: FMCSA-2022-0149] (RIN: 2126-AC47) received October 14, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-5868. A letter from the Director, Regulations and Disclosure Law Division, U.S. Customs and Border Control, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the De-

partment's final rule — Elimination of Customs Broker District Permit Fee [USCBP-2020-0010] (RIN: 1515-AE43) received October 21, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-5869. A letter from the Director, Regulations and Disclosure Law Division, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modernization of the Customs Broker Regulations [USCBP-2020-0009] (RIN: 1651-AB16) received October 21, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-5870. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's temporary rule — Implementation of Refund Procedures for Craft Beverage Modernization Act Federal Excise Tax Benefits Applicable to Imported Alcohol [Docket No.: TTB-2022-0009; T.D. TTB-186; Re: Notice No.: 186] (RIN: 1513-AC89) received October 4, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-5871. A letter from the Branch Chief, Publications and Regulations, Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Extension of plan amendment deadlines relating to CARES Act Section 2202 and Relief Act Section 302 [Notice 2022-45] received October 4, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-5872. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Extension of section 42 relief in Notice 2022-5 [Notice 2022-52] received October 25, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-5873. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Medicare Program: Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment and Ambulatory Surgical Center Payment Systems and Quality Reporting Programs; Organ Acquisition; Rural Emergency Hospitals: Payment Policies, Conditions of Participation, Provider Enrollment, Physician Self-Referral; New Service Category for Hospital Outpatient Department Prior Authorization Process; Overall Hospital Quality Star Rating [CMS-1772-FC; CMS-1774-F; CMS-3419-F; CMS-5531-F; CMS-9912-F] (RIN: 0938-AU82) received November 7, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Mr. TAKANO: Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 5721. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve research conducted within the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes (Rept. 117-551). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. PALLONE: Committee on Energy and Commerce.

H.R. 4275. A bill to provide for certain reports on enrollment in the Lifeline program, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 117-552). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. PALLONE: Committee on Energy and Commerce.

H.R. 5441. A bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes (Rept. 117-553). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. PALLONE: Committee on Energy and Commerce.

H.R. 6290. A bill to provide for the establishment of a section of the website of the Department of Commerce that shall serve as the primary hub for information relating to Federal manufacturing programs, and for other purposes (Rept. 117-554). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. PALLONE: Committee on Energy and Commerce.

H.R. 5502. A bill to require online marketplaces to verify certain information regarding high-volume third party sellers of consumer products on such online marketplaces and to disclose to consumers certain contact and other information regarding such high-volume third party sellers (Rept. 117-555). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. SCANLON: Committee on Rules.

House Resolution 1464. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (S. 4524) to limit the judicial enforceability of predispute nondisclosure and nondisparagement contract clauses relating to disputes involving sexual assault and sexual harassment; and for other purposes (Rept. 117-556). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia: Committee on Education and Labor.

H.R. 7310. A bill to protect America's retirement security, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-557, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILLS

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII, the following action was taken by the Speaker:

H.R. 4374. Referral to the Committee on Energy and Commerce extended for a period ending not later than December 8, 2022.

H.R. 7310. Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means extended for a period ending not later than January 2, 2023.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CARSON (for himself, Mr. BEYER, Ms. BUSH, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. JACOBS of California, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. NEWMAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. POCAN, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 9291. A bill to require a report on the death of Shireen Abu Akleh; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. HILL:

H.R. 9292. A bill to promote United States interests at the international financial insti-

tutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ:

H.R. 9293. A bill to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to make a technical correction to the Navajo Nation Water Resources Development Trust Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ:

H.R. 9294. A bill to amend the Claims Resolution Act to make a technical correction to the Taos Pueblo Water Development Fund and the Aamodt Settlement Pueblos' Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. PELTOLA:

H.R. 9295. A bill to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide that Alexander Creek, Incorporated, is recognized as a Village Corporation under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Ms. CHU, Ms. BASS, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. OBERNOLTE, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H.R. 9296. A bill to direct the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to conduct a comprehensive review of understaffing across the Bureau, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCGOVERN:

H. Res. 1463. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of "move over" laws; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. DONALDS (for himself, Mr. CAREY, and Mr. KELLER):

H. Res. 1465. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to prohibit the consideration of bills and resolutions whose titles do not adequately express their contents; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. TURNER:

H. Res. 1466. A resolution of inquiry requesting the President to transmit certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the investigation by the intelligence community into the origins of the COVID-19 virus; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

By Mr. TURNER:

H. Res. 1467. A resolution of inquiry requesting the President to transmit certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the use of authorities, personnel, and capabilities of the intelligence community to conduct domestic activities unrelated to foreign intelligence; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

By Mr. TURNER:

H. Res. 1468. A resolution of inquiry directing the Director of National Intelligence to transmit certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the investigation by the intelligence community into the origins of the COVID-19 virus; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

By Mr. TURNER:

H. Res. 1469. A resolution of inquiry directing the Director of National Intelligence to transmit certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the use of authorities, personnel, and capabilities of the intelligence community to conduct domestic activities unrelated to foreign intelligence; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

By Mr. YARMUTH:

H. Res. 1470. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of November 14 through November 18, 2022, as "National Family Service Learning Week"; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

ML-237. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the State of Michigan, relative to Senate Resolution No. 171, condemning the expansion of the Internal Revenue Service through the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. CARSON:

H.R. 9291.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. HILL:

H.R. 9292.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ:

H.R. 9293.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ:

H.R. 9294.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mrs. PELTOLA:

H.R. 9295.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 9296.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 69: Mr. CORREA.
H.R. 79: Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 761: Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 855: Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 962: Mr. MFUME.
H.R. 1304: Mr. LATURNER.
H.R. 1313: Ms. DEAN.
H.R. 1321: Mr. CHABOT and Ms. CHU.
H.R. 1401: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 1512: Mr. LIEU.
H.R. 1624: Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 1729: Mr. EMMER.
H.R. 1946: Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 2021: Mr. CASTRO of Texas.
H.R. 2549: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 2566: Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 2654: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 2791: Mr. GALLEGO.
H.R. 2953: Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 3089: Ms. BASS and Mr. PANETTA.
H.R. 3160: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 3259: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H.R. 3335: Mr. MCGOVERN and Ms. GARCIA of Texas.
H.R. 3337: Ms. SPEIER and Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 3339: Mr. SWALWELL.
H.R. 3425: Mr. OWENS, Ms. VAN DUYNE, and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

H.R. 3434: Mrs. DEMINGS.
 H.R. 3586: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
 H.R. 3614: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
 H.R. 3728: Ms. MATSUI.
 H.R. 3981: Mr. KILMER.
 H.R. 4086: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.
 H.R. 4141: Mr. CASE.
 H.R. 4146: Mr. MFUME.
 H.R. 4385: Mr. EVANS and Mr. LOWENTHAL.
 H.R. 4436: Mrs. LESKO and Ms. KAPTUR.
 H.R. 4464: Mr. KILMER.
 H.R. 4847: Mr. MFUME.
 H.R. 5067: Ms. KUSTER.
 H.R. 5782: Mr. CARBAJAL.
 H.R. 5788: Mr. PHILLIPS.
 H.R. 5883: Mr. KIND.
 H.R. 5924: Mr. COHEN.
 H.R. 6018: Mr. WITTMAN.
 H.R. 6132: Mrs. KIM of California and Mr. FINSTAD.
 H.R. 6287: Mr. HILL and Mr. KIM of New Jersey.
 H.R. 6290: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
 H.R. 6544: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
 H.R. 6626: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.
 H.R. 6781: Ms. JACOBS of California.
 H.R. 6817: Mr. FINSTAD.
 H.R. 6818: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
 H.R. 6823: Mr. THOMPSON of California and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
 H.R. 7061: Mr. NADLER.
 H.R. 7151: Mr. WENSTRUP.
 H.R. 7382: Mr. GIBBS and Ms. SALAZAR.
 H.R. 7474: Ms. CHU, Ms. Barragán, and Mr. POCAN.
 H.R. 7477: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
 H.R. 7559: Ms. GRANGER and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
 H.R. 7745: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.
 H.R. 7752: Mr. CARSON.
 H.R. 7882: Mr. MORELLE.
 H.R. 7933: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 8023: Mr. KILMER.
 H.R. 8088: Mr. LIEU.
 H.R. 8210: Mrs. TRAHAN.
 H.R. 8227: Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. NORTON, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
 H.R. 8299: Mr. NEGUSE.
 H.R. 8333: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. TITUS, Mr. SIRES, Mr. LIEU, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. ALLRED.
 H.R. 8341: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
 H.R. 8393: Mr. RASKIN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. NADLER, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LIEU, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. SCANLON, and Mr. MOULTON.
 H.R. 8433: Mr. HUFFMAN.
 H.R. 8452: Mr. MORELLE.
 H.R. 8455: Mr. LIEU.
 H.R. 8546: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
 H.R. 8616: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
 H.R. 8621: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
 H.R. 8654: Ms. OMAR.
 H.R. 8727: Ms. NORTON and Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.
 H.R. 8747: Mr. MOONEY.
 H.R. 8800: Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. CASE.
 H.R. 8876: Mr. PETERS, Mr. SOTO, and Ms. MANNING.
 H.R. 8906: Ms. ROSS.
 H.R. 9008: Mr. PAPPAS.
 H.R. 9013: Mrs. LESKO and Mr. BUDD.
 H.R. 9049: Ms. MACE, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. LIEU, and Ms. GARCIA of Texas.
 H.R. 9070: Mr. HUFFMAN.
 H.R. 9071: Mr. HUFFMAN.
 H.R. 9074: Mrs. STEEL.
 H.R. 9197: Ms. MACE.

H.R. 9200: Ms. KUSTER.
 H.R. 9202: Mr. POCAN and Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 9226: Mrs. BEATTY.
 H.R. 9245: Mr. WELCH and Ms. TLAIB.
 H.R. 9255: Mr. CASTEN.
 H.R. 9275: Ms. STEFANIK.
 H.R. 9282: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.
 H. Con. Res. 110: Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. PETERS.
 H. Res. 922: Mr. TONKO, Ms. DEAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, and Mr. TRONE.
 H. Res. 1320: Mr. MAST.
 H. Res. 1335: Mr. TAKANO.
 H. Res. 1392: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

PT-151. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in OK, relative to a resolution supporting the seating of Victoria Holland as the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives as soon as reasonably possible in accordance with the Treaties of 1785 and 1835; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

PT-152. Also, a petition of the Employees' Retirement System of Jersey City, NJ, relative to a resolution joining with other public employees/retirees in urging Congress to support H.R. 82 of the 117th Congress legislation (to repeal the GPO and WEP provision) and to move this legislation through passage and to being signed into law; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.



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No. 175

Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, who brings a rich harvest with Your footsteps, we praise Your Name and celebrate Your goodness. Lord, remind us that, without Your help, there is no national security. May we focus less on what we can accomplish and more on Your prevailing providence.

Send Your peace into the hearts of our Senators. Lord, take away distracting worries and fill them with faith. Cleanse them from any bitter or unforgiving spirit as You give them contentment in serving You and this great Nation.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Maria del R. Antongiorgi-Jordan, of Puerto Rico, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Hawaii.

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 (Ms. HIRONO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER
The majority leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF THE TOPS
SUPERMARKET SHOOTING

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, before I begin the substance of my remarks, today the people of Buffalo, NY, observe a somber remembrance: 6 months ago to the day that 10 New Yorkers were killed in a terrible shooting at the Tops Supermarket on Jefferson Avenue. A few moments ago, the city of Buffalo held a moment of silence to honor those killed and those wounded, and we joined with them in prayer and remembrance.

And today, because gun violence is still all too much with us, we hold in our hearts everyone at the University of Virginia where, last night, three students were tragically killed in a shooting on campus. Our condolences go out to the families of those lost, as well as to everyone in Charlottesville who is grieving today.

MIDTERM ELECTIONS AND THE 117TH CONGRESS

Now, Madam President, let me be the first to welcome you and all my colleagues back to the U.S. Senate. There is a lot to do, a lot to say, and I am glad to be back here on the floor with my colleagues to continue serving the American people. I want to thank the voters of New York, who have elected me for a fifth term—the first Senator ever from New York to have five terms—and I promise the people of New York that I will serve you as diligently and work just as hard for you as I have in the previous years. So thank you for the faith that you have shown in me.

And, Madam President, last Tuesday, Americans made their voices heard in one of the most remarkable midterm elections in modern history. With our democracy at stake, with our fundamental liberties on the line, and with a clear choice between moving America forward or holding it back, the American people spoke loud and clear. Democrats will retain the majority in the Senate, and House Democrats, under the leadership of Speaker PELOSI, defied precedent and remain within striking distance of defending their majority as well. The election was a great win for the Democratic Party but, more importantly, a great win for the American people.

And let me say this. Two things happened, Madam President, in the last 2 years. First, this Senate and this Congress passed a huge agenda, the most comprehensive agenda affecting and helping American families that has occurred in decades. Second, Democrats won the elections here in the Senate and many in the House. Those two statements are directly related. Because Democrats had a strong agenda here and did things for the American people, we won. And despite the negativity and divisiveness, the threats of violence and even the violence itself that occurred with MAGA Republicanism dominating the country, the American people stepped back from the

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



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precipice and chose progress and getting things done, rather than the voices of divisiveness, nastiness, and lack of complete truth and honor. So those two things are definitely related.

First, let's talk about some of the things we got done. It was an incredible, incredible 2 years. The list is a long one: the most significant bipartisan infrastructure bill in decades, making sure that millions of new, good jobs will occur—with union labor, I am proud to say—employing tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, millions of people in good working jobs.

We reformed the post office for the first time in a very long time. We dealt with the issue of chips that were made overseas, and now we have said to the American people: We are going to make them here, creating thousands and thousands of good-paying jobs, and we are going to not let any country—China or any other, Germany—take away that dominance. We have developed the chips here. We are going to make them here.

We dealt with our veterans who were exposed to toxins from burn pits. And when the VA wouldn't help them, we said the VA must. We dealt with climate in the IRA, for the first time ever, and we will reduce the amount of carbon flowing into our atmosphere by 2030 by 40 percent. In the same bill, we took on the prescription drug companies, and we are getting a \$35 price for insulin on Medicare and lowering prices of drugs for so many millions of Americans on many other drugs, starting as early as next year, with the cap of \$2,000 that anyone must pay.

We increased healthcare. We expanded the ACA, making healthcare less expensive for many and dealing with so many other healthcare issues, to the benefit of the American people.

So it was a huge agenda, and despite what some of the pundits and prognosticators say, that is what the American people wanted.

How did we win the election? Because we stuck to that agenda.

And on the other side, what we saw from MAGA Republicans was, first, the Big Lie—the Big Lie—that said that the election was stolen. It was a lie, plain and simple, but MAGA Republicans, so many in this Chamber, repeated that lie over and over again.

And, Madam President, if one political party or a large group of people abandon the view that the elections are on the level, that is the beginning of the end of our democracy.

Not only did we see the Big Lie, but we saw nastiness, divisiveness, threats of violence, and even violence itself, not only on January 6 but often directed at the people running our elections. These are nice, hard-working people. All they want to do is do their job and make sure the votes are counted properly, and they get threatened.

And what bothered the American people even more than this was the fact that too many Republican leaders either condoned the violence or even

aided and abetted the threats of violence. It was outrageous, but lots of people saw right through it—and not just Democrats. Large numbers of Republicans said: This new MAGA Republican Party is not the party of Ronald Reagan, not the party of the Bushes; it is a different party, and I can't countenance it.

And that is why so many of them voted for Democratic candidates who were paying attention to the specific issues—nondisruptive, not incendiary, just helping people. And that is why, I believe, we won the election.

So where do we go from here, Madam President?

Well, I will say one more thing. The midterms are not over. Obviously, there is an election in Georgia, and once again we have the contrast. Senator WARNOCK is a man dedicated to service. He first served people in the ministry, and he still is the minister, the pastor, of one of the most famous and revered pulpits in the entire country, in the Ebenezer Baptist Church, the old pulpit of Martin Luther King, Jr. But he became a Senator, and that devotion to service continued.

He was one of our leaders in establishing a \$35 cap on insulin for tens of thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands, of Georgians and millions of Americans, the elderly, who needed that insulin. And the drug companies, even though it is not a patented drug, were charging \$600, \$700, \$800 a month. He helped with healthcare.

He helped get \$4 billion for Black farmers, who had been discriminated against for decades.

And so I believe this election—this new election in Georgia—will be like the election that we have had last Tuesday: The candidate who is trying to help people, the candidate who is not being divisive and incendiary, will win: RAPHAEL WARNOCK.

Now, where should we go in the next 2 years? I hope this Chamber, for the good of the American people, will continue on its record of getting bipartisan things done. Of the six major bills we passed in June and July and early August, five were bipartisan. And our hierarchy as Democrats is to work on a bipartisan basis whenever we can, and we showed we were able to.

There are times when we can't get our Republicans to join us. None of them wanted to go against Big Pharma, and we had to pass prescription drugs ourselves. None of them wanted to go against Big Oil; so we had to pass climate change by ourselves. But we got a lot of bipartisan things done.

And my hope for America, for the sake of America—this is a swirling world, and people are not happy with their circumstances; they want help—is that this Senate in the next 2 years, under the leadership of this caucus, will rise to that occasion. And I say to my Democratic colleagues, let us proceed in the next 2 years by putting them first and getting things done,

even if we have to compromise. We may not accomplish everything we want, but if we can get real things done, that will measure how good a Congress we can be.

The guns bill that we did under Senator MURPHY's leadership last summer is an example. Almost every one of us on this side of the aisle is for universal background checks. I am the author of the Brady law. I care a lot about it. We couldn't get that, but we got some significant changes. We fought the NRA, and young people—18 years old—will not automatically be able to go into a gun store and buy an assault rifle, as the horrible perpetrators of the crimes in Buffalo and Uvalde had done.

And once we got this done, even though we didn't get everything we wanted, the American people were elated. They said: They finally broke the logjam and got something done. For our side, that ought to be a motto: Get it done. Don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good. The American people want us to make their lives better and help them. Speeches won't do it. Putting down just a bill that has everything we want that fails won't do it. Getting it done will.

I say to my Republican colleagues, including Leader MCCONNELL, work with us. Work with us. We are willing to work with you to get things done, as the past Senate has shown. Let's sit down and talk about how we can come together. That is what we need to do.

And I say to my Republican colleagues, embracing the MAGA way of divisiveness, nastiness, negativity, without constructive compromise—that is how Donald Trump wanted it, and some of our colleagues follow him—that will be a disaster. That will be wrong. It will be bad for America, but it will also be bad for the Republican Party because these elections have shown that the MAGA Republican way is not where the American people want to be. The election of 2016 showed it. The election of 2018 showed it. The election of 2020 showed it. And this election, more than ever, shows it because no one thought Democrats would succeed in the election because we were climbing uphill. But the combination of us actually accomplishing things and focusing on those things in our campaigns and the fact of the distaste that a majority of Americans have for the MAGA Republican way of intransigence, divisiveness, nastiness, and tossing incendiary language over the wall, is not going to succeed.

So we can have a great, great 2 years if we work together, and I am urging Leader MCCONNELL to work with us. I am urging the hopefully large group of non-MAGA Republicans on the other side to work with us so we can get things done.

Now, finally, I want to thank a few people in the aftermath of this election. First, I want to thank President Biden for his leadership, for working with us on climate change to lowering costs for families on drugs, to delivering action on student debt. And, by

the way, I forgot to add that we focused on our younger generation as well. And two issues they cared about most were climate and student debt. We delivered on both. President Biden took great leadership on so many of these issues and delivered on so many. So I want to thank him for his leadership. He helped set this bold agenda that we in the Senate were proud to hone and enact.

I want to welcome our two new colleagues to the Senate on our side of the aisle: PETER WELCH of Vermont and John Fetterman of Pennsylvania. I have had a chance to talk to them over the phone before and after their victories, and they will be excellent Senators.

And I want to thank all of those who knocked on doors, who volunteered, who said: This democracy should not be left to others; I must be involved. Thank you. All of that hard work has produced a very good result, at least in my opinion, last Tuesday.

So the election of 2022 is approaching the end, but our obligation to serve the American people continues. Let us move forward with the same spirit of cooperation and compromise that made the 117th Congress one of the most successful in recent history. If we do it, it will be good for Democratic Senators, it will be good for Republican Senators, but, most of all, it will be good for this grand experiment in democracy: the United States of America and its people.

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. 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 Republican leader is recognized.

MIDTERM ELECTIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, last week's midterm elections reaffirmed something that has been clear for a number of years: When it comes to politics and to policy, we are a closely divided nation.

For the third straight election, our closely divided nation saw a closely fought election go all the way down to the wire. And as the dust settles, for the third straight time, the American people have chosen a very closely divided government.

Though several races for the House of Representatives remain uncalled, it appears the likeliest outcome would mean the American people have put a stop to 2 years of Democrats' disastrous one-party government and placed the House in Republican hands.

Senate Republicans have spent 2 years working to check and balance reckless policies; it will be an outstanding thing for the country to have a set of new reinforcements arriving on the other side of the Capitol.

Now, while this election underscored some of our country's close divisions, it also highlighted areas where the people are speaking overwhelmingly with one voice. The American people are not divided over what Democrats' reckless policy decisions have done to our economy and to their families' budgets. Exit polls show three-quarters of voters say the economy they are facing is "poor" or "not good."

Americans are not divided over whether the current trends in inflation, crime, open borders, and drug addiction are acceptable outcomes for the greatest country in the history of the world; everyone knows they are not.

And Americans are not especially closely divided about whether they want President Biden to keep governing like he has been or actually change course. At this point in their presidencies, every one of the last 13 Presidents dating back to Truman had higher approval ratings than the Biden administration.

One State where Democrats' policy failures have hit especially hard is the State of Georgia. Georgia families have seen cumulative inflation of 14.7 percent since January of 2021. Both of their Senators cast the deciding vote to rubberstamp the spending that made that happen. Now households in the Peach State are paying a hidden Democratic inflation tax that adds up to thousands of extra dollars per year.

The nationwide breakdown in law and order has hit Georgia hard as well. The city of Atlanta now has per capita rates of homicide and assault that are even actually worse than Chicago.

And the people of Georgia saw their State attacked, called racist, called Jim Crow 2.0 by the sitting President of the United States, and boycotted by major corporations over a voting law that just facilitated—listen to this—historic ballot access, record turnout, and low wait times for Georgia voters.

So where do Georgia taxpayers and small businesses go to get their money back after the liberal smear campaign that led to the boycotts? But the day after the election, President Biden took to the podium and triumphantly promised that he plans to learn no lessons and change nothing at all. Here was the quote:

I'm not going to change the direction.

Thirteen-plus percent inflation over 2 years, historic levels of dissatisfaction at Americans' kitchen tables, and President Biden says he will keep doing precisely what he has been doing: more inflation, more crime, more chaos, more open borders.

If Washington Democrats do not want to pivot to sanity and common sense, if they will not help us address the ways their policies are hurting families, they will encounter stiff resistance from the sizable Senate Republican Conference that half the country has elected to be their voice, to be their champions, to fight for them.

So to sum it up, we are going to fight hard for the American families this administration is leaving behind.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. DUCKWORTH). The senior Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, before I make any remarks in the Senate, I want to make remarks of a specific and personal nature to the Presiding Officer. The last time we were together was election night. And it was a wonderful night for you, for your family, and for the State of Illinois. Your victory was an amazing achievement, but your whole life has been an amazing achievement. And I particularly will remember when Brian brought the girls up to the stage, and they jumped all over their mom in her wheelchair. It was something that made the news and should have. It was a wonderful moment for you and your family. But it was a wonderful moment in American politics.

Your re-election in the State of Illinois was my No. 1 priority. And I didn't have to work as hard as I thought I would because they love you, and it showed in the vote. So congratulations to the Presiding Officer.

Madam President, in the fall of 1862, President Abraham Lincoln sent his second annual message to Congress. The Civil War was raging, and our Nation was really uncertain as to its future.

In the midst of what Lincoln called this "fiery trial," he called on Congress to do something that was remarkable: to assure the freedom of every American, including the nearly 4 million Black Americans living in bondage. President Lincoln said this was the only way to "save . . . the last best hope of earth," American democracy.

Last Tuesday, 160 years later, Americans across the country stood up, went to the polls, and did their part, in their time, to save the last best hope of earth. They voted to protect our fundamental freedoms and to preserve our democracy.

One of those voters was a young woman in our State named Lauren. She is a student at the University of Illinois in Champaign. The students at the university once again had to wait for hours in line. People were bringing pizzas to sustain them during their trial of waiting to vote. It worked. They voted in big numbers. And Lauren was one of them.

While she was waiting in line, a reporter with the Illinois Student Newsroom asked her, "Why, why did you come out here and vote?"

She said:

I was voting based on women's rights in terms of candidates who were supporting women's choice. . . . It's important—as a student—as a young person to come out and vote for issues that I care about.

Thankfully, Lauren wasn't alone. In this year's election, young voters continued a trend that began in 2018 and 2020: They turned out in record numbers. They realized it is the responsibility of their generation to do a better job than our generation and to keep democracy alive.

So let's start off by thanking the young people: the sons and daughters who were raised properly when it came to their civic duty, who voted for the first time last week—and, for some, it was a repeat performance—along with every other American. With their votes, they sent a message to us and to the rest of America that was loud and clear: It is time for the Big Lie to die.

Last week, in State after State, voters rejected MAGA Republicans who ran on this Big Lie that the 2020 election was stolen. This outrageous assertion, with no proof, no evidence and nothing to back it up other than the big liar, has become rampant among some corners of this country. But thank the Lord that it did not prevail on election day.

In fact, every single election denier who ran for Secretary of State in a swing State was defeated—every single one of them. So the takeaway here isn't all that complicated. I hope it is one that our Republican colleagues will finally take to heart: It is time to reject that extremist lie.

The American people are sick and tired of false claims that the 2020 election was stolen—the same claims that generated the insurrectionist mob, which on one of the saddest days in the history of this building stormed this Capitol on January 6, 2021, injuring over 149 law enforcement officials who were doing their duty to protect this building and the people in it and, sadly, leading to six deaths. Now the threats of violence continue.

After the election and the American people have spoken, can we finally join together in a bipartisan fashion to condemn all forms of violence, regardless of their political origin? It is inconsistent with the democracy that we can be proud of. And, yes, the American people are also sick and tired of right-wing assaults on our fundamental freedoms.

That young voter in Champaign I mentioned, Lauren, she is just one of millions of Americans motivated to vote after the Supreme Court's Dobbs decision earlier this year. By erasing the constitutional right to abortion—a right that millions of Americans have counted on for half a century—the Court's radical rightwing majority lit a fire in the hearts of voters across the country. And it wasn't just in the blue States. In the minority leader's home State of Kentucky—Kentucky—voters rejected an anti-abortion ballot measure.

The lesson here at this moment isn't that a Democratic or Republican issue is at stake. This is about a basic constitutional right taken away from the women of this country—the right to make their own decisions about their own reproductive health choices. People don't want politicians—Senators, Congressmen, you name it—sticking their nose into the business of doctors in the hospitals and clinics across America. We need to respect the will of the people and protect the right to choose once and for all.

Let me also add something that happened over the weekend that bears comment. There has been a lot of loose talk as to whether or not this U.S. Supreme Court is too political. It has fallen in approval ratings to record lows. The American people think it has been dominated by political decisions and political choices.

So what did four of the nine Supreme Court Justices do over the weekend? They attended the Federalist Society gala ball here in Washington. The Federalist Society is an obvious political force which chose many of them under President Trump and others, and they basically fed the story line that this Supreme Court is enthralled with the Federalist Society.

You could not become a Federal judge—and I know this from serving on the Judiciary Committee—under Presidents of the Republican Party in recent times without the stamp of approval from the Federalist Society. In fact, their stamp of approval is even more important than being judged “qualified” by the American Bar Association. Nine Federal judges chosen by President Trump failed to be deemed qualified to serve on the Federal courts of our land, but they have been stamped “approved” by the Federalist Society.

This powerful political force had a party, and they invited members of the Supreme Court. Four of the nine members of the Court came to that party: Justice Alito, Justice Gorsuch, Justice Kavanaugh, and Justice Barrett. How can they dispel the belief many people have that they are too political when they attend such overtly political events?

That wasn't the only thing we learned. One of the top issues the American people were concerned about was the state of the economy—and rightly so. My wife does most of the shopping, but I get around to grocery stores in Illinois, my hometown, once in a while and take a look at the price of things. It is clear they have gone up for almost anything. You can't miss the price of gasoline; it is right there in front of you every single day. It must create—it does create—a hardship for American families.

It makes sense to understand historically why we are facing this. We are still recovering from a once-in-a-century pandemic. Like every nation, inflation has hit working families the hardest. But the American people also recognize that this Senate majority has made steady, meaningful progress in working against inflation. We can't will it away. We can't pass a law to ban it. We can't expect even the Federal Reserve, by their monetary policy, to dispense with inflation in a quick way. We have a large, complicated economy. It is part of the global economy. We have to work together—and we have—to help working families pay their bills and stay afloat.

Just a few months ago, we passed the Inflation Reduction Act on the floor. I remember that well, and I am sure the

Presiding Officer does too. We had 41 rollcalls—41 rollcalls. It went all through the night. I think it was at least 24 hours or more, maybe 36 hours. We went straight through to finish it and get it done, and we did. In the end, the bill passed with only Democratic support. Every Republican voted against it. I am sorry that was the case because there are things in there the Republicans should join us in supporting.

Telling people on Medicare that they are never going to have to pay more than \$2,000 out of pocket for prescription drugs is a great relief. You and I both know that the cost of prescription drugs in some cases ranges into the tens of thousands of dollars, breaking the backs of a lot of families finding that they are basically disbursing all of their savings for that purpose. Now we guarantee with that bill a maximum charge out of pocket of \$2,000 a year.

If you happen to be on Medicare and are diabetic, we capped the cost of insulin each month to \$35.

Insulin was discovered by Canadian researchers. When they discovered it, the doctors who came up with this wonderful drug said: We are going to surrender our patent rights for \$1. We are finished. We don't believe any life-or-death drug should be bargained away to pharmaceutical companies.

Unfortunately, it has been. This changed for Medicare. Capping the cost of insulin means that many people who are diabetic will be able to take their medicine and afford it. That is a great thing for our future.

Do you recall, Madam President, when we had this on the floor and we tried to extend the same \$35 insulin charge to all other diabetics in the United States, not just Medicare? We needed 10 of the 50 Republicans to join us—10 of 50—to cap the cost of insulin for all diabetics in America. We failed. Only 7 Republicans would join the 50 Democrats. We needed 60 votes; we got 57.

I heard this President say—and I am sure you have too—he is going back to this issue, and he should. This is something that should be bipartisan and pass very quickly.

In the Inflation Reduction Act, we started making changes when it comes to energy policy in America.

I think the young people voting were really motivated by several things. They were motivated by the threats of losing protections against discrimination for sexual orientation. They were motivated by the Dobbs decision on choice. But they were motivated as well because we made it clear, at least on our side of the aisle, that we were going to move forward with an energy policy which is going to address global warming and give them an Earth they can live on. I think that is an important part of the future.

I am not bragging, but I will tell you that several months ago, as you know, I put solar panels on my home in Springfield. My wife and I decided it

was the right thing to do even if it didn't pencil out economically. Guess what. It is working great. The first bill we were able to compare with the previous year, we ended up generating more electricity than we purchased in the course of a month. I hope that continues. That dramatic reduction in my energy costs is also an investment in sustainable, renewable energy for the future. Those solar panels enhance the value of the home we live in.

We estimate that 280,000 families in our home State of Illinois are going to install solar panels. I am encouraging them to do that as quickly as possible. They are going to find great savings, and they are going to join us in the effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that threaten our future.

We also understand that we have to do much more in these fields, whether it is the cost of healthcare or whether it is the climate crisis in our country.

We want to make sure as well that the burden of government's costs is fairly shared. How can we possibly explain or rationalize that many of the wealthiest corporations in America don't pay their fair share of taxes? Families across America know they have to face their civic responsibility and pay their taxes. Very few of those families are applauding, but they are hoping that the basic social contract holds and that every corporation as well as an individual will pay their fair share. We moved in that direction with that bill.

These policies in terms of tax fairness are popular, and we saw that proof last Tuesday in the vote. The American people reelected a Democratic majority to the Senate because I believe they support the work we are doing.

I want to just comment on the statements made earlier by the minority leader from Kentucky. He really generalized the midterm election as if it was something other than what I saw.

A midterm election is tough on the President's party. Historically, every President has taken a beating. I can recall when my colleague from Illinois was President, Barack Obama. His midterm election he characterized as a shellacking, and he was right. I believe they lost 40 or 50 seats in that election. It happens, but it didn't happen last Tuesday.

We have to ask ourselves a basic question: If the Senator from Kentucky is right and everybody rejects what this President has done and rejects what the Democratic majority did, why didn't he do better? Why didn't his party do better? There is much more to the story.

We have the opportunity to build on the Senate's proud record of accomplishments starting again this week, and we should. Listen to what the American people told us. They told us: Roll up your sleeves, stop bickering, ignore the Big Lie because it is a big lie, and do something together. Show us cooperation. Can you do it?

Well, I will tell you, I reached out already to two of my Republican col-

leagues on the Senate Judiciary Committee, asking them to think about whether we can achieve anything in the next 3 or 4 weeks. I am hoping that we can. It was a good-faith effort on my part to say: Yes, we might have prevailed and we continue in the majority, but we can't get anything done unless we work together. I think that is what the American people are begging us to do now.

I will basically say that this bipartisanship is an easy task when you have Members on the other side who are willing to join with you. Our most basic duty, though, our most basic thing we can accomplish between now and the end of the year is make sure we don't face a government shutdown. Who can imagine that is good for the United States, our reputation in the world, our economy, or the people who are counting on us, to let the government shut down?

I am hopeful that in the coming weeks, before the first of the year, we can negotiate and pass an Omnibus appropriations package with bipartisan support. I am also hopeful that we can address that sword of Damocles hanging over our heads called the debt ceiling. From where I am sitting, the debt ceiling should be eliminated. It basically is a promise that we are going to pay the bills we have already incurred. Well, we wouldn't have voted for the bills if we didn't think we had to pay for them.

So this debt ceiling has to be renewed on a regular basis and has become a bargaining point for some extremists in Congress who argue that shutting down the government won't even be noticed by the American people. They are wrong. They have done it before, and we noticed. It was not good for our country, and we don't need it at this moment in history.

This week, we will also continue rebalancing the Federal judiciary by confirming highly qualified, evenhanded judges who will bring diversity to the Federal bench and who will defend our basic rights.

During this legislative session, we can do something Americans have been waiting on for decades: reform our broken immigration system. Everybody is talking about it. Now let's do something about it on a bipartisan basis. We can, and we should.

For the people—and the exact number, I am not sure—but thousands, tens of thousands protected by DACA are waiting to see if one judge in Texas is going to force them into deportation. Think about that. Thousands and thousands of young people were brought to the United States by their parents, grew up here, went to our schools, pledged allegiance to that flag every day in their classroom, and want to be part of America, and we have been unable and unwilling to come to a bipartisan agreement as to how to give them that chance.

I beg my Republican colleagues—particularly those who are leaving and

told me privately that they have always wanted to vote for the Dream Act and this time they will—give us a chance to work together to come up with a good, sensible approach to our border; a good, sensible approach to the Dream Act; and to help bring in workers we desperately need for agriculture and for some specialties in healthcare where we are having severe shortages in this country. We can do this. There is no reason we can't do it. We have the basic legislation.

Let's really do something we can be proud of in the closing days of this year. I can think of no better way to show the American people that we were listening on November 8. After years of obstruction, we need bipartisanship. I know that means compromises by me as well as by them, but that is the nature of the Senate.

Millions of voters turned out across America last week. They challenged us in the Senate. They challenged us to continue making real progress for working families in this country. Let's show them we can get it done.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

MR. CORNYN. Madam President, election day has come and gone, but there is still quite a bit of uncertainty about what the next Congress will look like, particularly in the House of Representatives.

As final ballots are being counted in a number of States, there is a lot we still don't know. But here is what we do know: We know that Democrats will maintain a razor-thin majority in the Senate, and I emphasize razor thin. In a few weeks, Georgia voters will head back to the polls to determine whether Democrats will hold 50 or 51 seats.

We won't know the result of that race until December 6 at the earliest. Now, suffice it to say, this is not the result I would have hoped for. Like all of my colleagues, I have heard firsthand about the pain and frustration families have felt due to Democrats' policies. Their runaway spending habits have fueled inflation. Their open border policies have ushered in the largest migration crisis we have ever witnessed. The epidemic of fentanyl deaths is compounded by the Biden and Democratic open border policies. Their anti-police, soft-on-crime rhetoric has harmed public safety, and their detached-from-reality energy policies have sent gas prices soaring and undermined our national security.

Best I can tell, our Democratic colleagues still don't have a plan to address any of those issues. It has become an exercise in finger-pointing, and the latest scapegoat is now the former Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Chris Magnus. Even if the Biden White House and congressional Democrats—even if they did have a plan, it doesn't look like there is much appetite for action.

If Republicans had won the majority, these issues would have been at the top

of our list, but, unfortunately, we came up short this time. I know many of my Republican colleagues are eager to have a frank discussion about the path forward for our party, and it is essential that we do so.

We need to ensure that in 2 years our policies and our message will resonate with the voters. So I agree with the need to have a frank, meaningful conversation—debate even. We shouldn't be afraid of spirited debate in the U.S. Senate. After all, debate about what our message should be and what our priorities should look like, that is essential.

Those discussions will begin tomorrow, and I hope there will be plenty of time to listen to one another and then to work toward consensus on a clear, concise, and impactful plan of action.

In terms of what to expect from our Democratic colleagues, I don't expect much to change. Given that Senator MANCHIN and Senator SINEMA—given their strong support for the 60-vote threshold for the Senate to act, I believe that will remain firmly intact. If the majority leader tries to go nuclear—as he has threatened to do time and time again—and blow up the rules of the Senate, he simply doesn't have the votes. That is the good news.

There will be no Green New Deal. There will be no court packing, no DC statehood, no mass amnesties. Republicans, maybe with some Democratic support, will block the most radical aspects of the agenda for progressives in the Democratic Party, and we will continue to fight the irresponsible spending and government overreach our colleagues have pushed the last 2 years.

Instead, we will push for common-sense policies to bring down the costs and improve the standard of living for working families. We will work to increase domestic energy production, rather than go hat in hand to autocrats in the Middle East, and we will secure the border. I hope we can do this through bipartisan progress. These are the top issues facing families across the country and they deserve our attention and, more than that, they deserve our action here in the Senate.

Unfortunately, it is not just the Senate that is in a bit of a holding pattern. Several House races have yet to be called, and it is not clear which party will hold the majority. Republicans have a lead right now, and I am optimistic that that is where things will end up in the House. A Republican majority in the House would force our Democratic colleagues to abandon partisan governance, which has dominated in the last 2 years, as they have held the White House, they have held the House, and then had a working majority in the Senate.

But now Democrats would no longer be able to abuse the budget reconciliation process to circumvent the normal legislative process. They would be forced to work in earnest to find common ground, which is what the American people, I believe, clearly want.

Again, we are all eager for the ballot counting to conclude. It has been nearly a week since election day, and everyone is eager to have a final roster for the 118th Congress.

While there is a lot we still don't know, there are some exciting things we do know. The Senate will welcome at least five new Republicans at the start of next year. KATIE BRITT, TED BUDD, MARKWAYNE MULLIN, ERIC SCHMITT, and J.D. VANCE will join the ranks of the Republican conference.

Each of these individuals is coming to Washington with a fresh perspective, right off the campaign trail, and a long list of ideas to improve the lives of folks in their State and across America.

While I am sad to see our retiring colleagues go, I am eager to welcome this new blood, this new energy, and these new ideas into the Senate.

There are also some new faces joining the Texas delegation. Given the explosive population growth in our State, we have added two new House seats this cycle, bringing the total to 38 House Members from the great State of Texas.

Next Congress, we will welcome five new Texas Republicans in the House, and I am eager to work with these men and women to solve some of the biggest issues families in our State are facing.

But if the truth be known, I am happy to work with anybody who shares my interest in trying to make life a little bit better and to address the critical issues facing American families today, which brings me to my next topic, the National Defense Authorization Act.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Madam President, while we wait for the final ballots to be tallied and run-offs to be held, there is still work to be done here in the Senate.

The first item on the agenda should be the National Defense Authorization Act. To be frank, I don't know why this is still outstanding, why we haven't acted as we have, I believe, for 61 years in a row, passing a National Defense Authorization Act, given its importance to the safety and security of our Nation.

Thanks to the bipartisan leadership of Senator REED and Senator INHOFE and our colleagues on the Armed Services Committee, they completed their work in the Senate Armed Services Committee last summer, but the Defense Authorization Act has just lingered on the Senate's agenda without any action by the majority leader, the Senator from New York.

Thanks to bipartisan leadership on the Senate Armed Services Committee, they have compiled a strong bill that will strengthen and modernize our national defense. But that bill was filed on July 18, last summer. In the meantime, nothing has happened here on the floor of the Senate, now 4 months later.

The majority leader has so far refused to provide floor time for the De-

fense authorization bill. This isn't a matter of scheduling. The Senate has had plenty of time to work on the Defense bill in September, and there was certainly bipartisan appetite to get that done. But the Senate majority leader, Senator SCHUMER, the Senator from New York, could not be swayed. He hasn't prioritized our national defense, which I believe is the single most important duty of the Members of Congress.

Given our global risks, this should be our No. 1 priority. Day after day, Russia continues its unjustified assault on Ukraine. As it tries to find friends on the global stage, it is cozying up to Iran. At the same time, the Chinese Communist Party has become increasingly hostile to the West, and its threats against the people of Taiwan are as strong as ever.

North Korea has declared itself a nuclear weapons state. The global threat landscape is evolving at a pace we haven't seen in a long time.

We need a strong National Defense Authorization Act that gives our commanders the predictability they need to plan and to prepare for the future and, hopefully, to deter military conflict—what Ronald Reagan called peace through strength.

It is completely baffling to me that the majority leader has put the National Defense Authorization Act at the very bottom of his to-do list. Radical nominees can wait. Our national defense must be the top priority, and I hope he will put this bill on the floor soon.

Senators on both sides of the aisle—as I mentioned, the Defense authorization bill is a bipartisan bill that came out of the Senate Armed Services Committee and was filed July 18, last summer, and nothing has happened on the floor of the Senate since then. There is one person who can change that, and that is the Democrat majority leader, Senator SCHUMER. I hope he will decide, finally, to get this bill on the floor.

Once the Defense authorization bill passes the Senate, we still have to keep the lights on. We have a continuing resolution that expires December 16. We have just over a month until the current stopgap spending measure expires, and a government shutdown is the last thing our country needs.

Given the fact that this is the end of Democrats' unified government, where they have majorities in the House and the Senate and the White House, I worry that our colleagues will try to weigh this down with tons of partisan freight, sweetheart deals, and earmarks. I am afraid they will include every remaining item from the far left's Christmas wish list and turn a critical funding bill into a Christmas tree.

This bill should be as clean of poison pills as much as humanly possible. This is not the place to cash in on political chits; there is far too much on the line.

Like all of our colleagues, I am eager to have more clarity on the makeup of

the 118th Congress, but we have work to do before the end of the 117th Congress, and I, for one, am ready to get to work.

I yield the floor.

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.

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

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

TENNESSEE NATIONAL GUARD'S 268TH MILITARY
POLICE COMPANY

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I want to begin by welcoming the Tennessee National Guard's 268th Military Police Company home after a 305-day deployment to Africa.

We are so incredibly grateful for their service and for the service and sacrifice that their families make during these times of deployment, and I know I speak for every Tennessean when I say to them: Welcome home. Job well done.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Madam President, well, the Senate is back in session and all anyone back in Tennessee wants to know is: What will this Chamber get done next? What is it that the Democrats are going to push next?

And they are not feeling very optimistic right now. One thing is clear, and that is that my Democratic colleagues have completely ignored the stress that they are causing Tennessee servicemembers and their families by dangling the NDAA in front of them and then snatching it away.

Inaction sends a very powerful message, and right now, all they are hearing is that the military has become a political football, and that does not inspire confidence.

We have passed the Defense Authorization Act 61 years in a row, and I am confident that there will be bipartisan support for No. 62, which makes this tight timeline even more unnecessary.

The American people don't have all the details on what this authorization will do, but they don't need them to know that it is the only thing standing between us and getting steamrolled by the CCP—the Chinese Communist Party—and the new axis of evil, which is Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea.

Our servicemembers might not know every line item in the 2,000 pages of the bill, but they know that its contents will determine the course of their lives for the next 5, 10, or 25 years. Passing this bill is the bare minimum as far as the Senate is concerned, but it means a lot to our men and women in uniform.

We are ready to get this thing done. I know that the Presiding Officer, as a Member of the Armed Services Committee who has worked so hard on this, joins me in being ready to get it done. We finished our committee work back in June on this bill. We considered

more than 400 amendments. We adopted about 200 of those amendments, and it passed out of Armed Services Committee 23 to 3. So when I say we are ready to go, we are. There is bipartisan support for getting this finished.

As we prepare to move forward on this legislation, I want to highlight two of my own proposed amendments that, unfortunately, fell victim to partisanship. But, first, here's a little background.

The Tennessee National Guard has a reputation for answering a cry for help no matter where it comes from. Last month, they deployed to Warren County, TN, to help first responders gain control of a wildfire. In September, members of the 194th Engineer Brigade, the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, the 230th Sustainment Brigade and the 1-230th Assault Helicopter Battalion deployed to Florida to help with the cleanup in the wake of Hurricane Ian.

In July, members of Nashville's 1-230th Assault Helicopter Battalion pulled people to safety after flash floods destroyed communities in Kentucky.

This year, the Guard has rescued multiple hikers who got into trouble on or near the Appalachian Trail. And last September, members of the 269th Military Police Company, the 913th Engineer Company, and the C Company, 2d Battalion, 151st Aviation Regiment made it home after spending more than a year helping law enforcement officials in Texas try to contain the border catastrophe.

The sight of that National Guard uniform makes people in this country feel safe when things are going wrong. But the continued enforcement of the COVID-19 vaccination order will inevitably jeopardize that sense of security.

I introduced two amendments to the 2023 NDAA that would have injected sanity into these vaccination requirements. The first would have prohibited involuntary separation of any servicemember for refusing the COVID-19 vaccine until each service achieves its end strength authorized by last year's NDAA.

The second amendment would have made sure that members of the National Guard or Reserve maintain access to pay and benefits while their request for a religious or health accommodation was pending. This is about as noncontroversial as you can get on the issue of vaccine mandates. These amendments would create a simple rule to stop this Biden Department of Defense from railroading their own troops.

There is nothing political about preserving readiness and a basic sense of fairness, which has been completely absent in this process.

I am going to use the Army as a case study to show you how destructive this mandate has been for the military. Now, the Army has not achieved the end strength authorized in the 2022 NDAA. What does that mean? It means that we don't have enough men and

women doing the job, filling the slots that the Army has.

The data backs this up. If you head over to Fort Campbell and ask anyone in uniform if this is true, they will tell you that I am 100-percent correct. They do not have enough people. Members of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment have been consistently deployed for more than 2 years. And we thank them for that service.

I would encourage my Democratic colleagues to ask them what this Democrat-led administration's lack of attention to readiness and force strength could mean for our national security. What kind of impact does this have? This mandate has already separated 1,796 active duty soldiers from their service. What is worse, the Army has only approved less than 4 percent of medical exemption requests and just over 1 percent of religious exemption requests.

The Guard is still in a holding pattern on the issue of separation, but their exemption denial statistics are just as troubling: 15 percent of medical exemptions have been approved but only 0.0047 percent of religious exemptions.

The Reserves are not faring much better. The Army has only approved a little more than 5 percent of the medical exemptions and 0.004 percent of their religious exemptions.

Prospects are looking bleak for guardsmen with legitimate exemption claims, and it is pretty bleak for the military as a whole. The National Guard is already missing recruitment goals, and they are set to lose 9,000 members in fiscal year 2023 and 5,000 in fiscal year 2024.

In the United States, the number of new servicemembers joining the military has reached a record low. The Army alone fell 15,000 soldiers short of its goal for 2022 and is projecting a deficit of 21,000 soldiers for 2023. This administration knew manpower was a problem, but still they chose to fire servicemembers who were perfectly healthy and ready to defend this great country. And so we shouldn't be surprised that 18-year-olds in this country don't feel that they can trust this Democrat-led administration at the Pentagon with full control of their young lives.

The fact is, the Democrats have a perfect record of making decisions that end in a disaster. They spent trillions of dollars, provoked recordbreaking inflation, and hired 87,000 new IRS agents to squeeze small businesses who are struggling to survive in communities all across the wonderful State of Tennessee.

They have abandoned the southern border and caused the worst illegal immigration crisis we have ever seen, the worst humanitarian crisis we have ever seen. And, remember, it would be even worse if the Tennessee National Guard hadn't come to the rescue.

They latched on to the Green New Deal and replaced American energy

independence. They backed shutdowns and mandates that destroyed the American workforce. They shuttered American businesses and sent our supply chains into a shambles. And let's be clear—they didn't make these decisions blindly. They have the same data that each Member of this Chamber has. They watch the news. They knew what they were doing. They knew it was wrong. They did it anyway. It was intentional. They are focused on an outcome, and now they are applying that same destructive strategy to the members of the U.S. military.

Every year, we come into this Chamber and fight as hard as we can to make our military the most lethal fighting force in the world. We authorize billions of dollars for aircraft, for equipment, for weaponry. The NDAA represents an incredible investment in the future of this country. But it also represents the trust the American people put in this Congress to keep them safe and to keep the enemy at bay.

I join my Republican colleagues in asking Leader SCHUMER to bring the NDAA to the floor so that we can get this very important piece of legislation to the President's desk. There is no reason for delay.

And I also implore all my colleagues to remember that the greatest military in the world is nothing without the brave men and women and their families who have volunteered to be a part of this. We ask so much of them. They are already busy enough putting out fires, fighting wars. The least we can do is spare them the pain of fighting our political battles.

I yield the floor.

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.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

RESPECT FOR MARRIAGE ACT— Motion to Proceed

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 449, H.R. 8404.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 449, H.R. 8404, a bill to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and ensure respect for State regulation of marriage, and for other purposes.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, let me say a few words about the cloture motion we will file.

In a few moments, I am going to set up the first procedural vote on legislation that will codify marriage equality into law. Members should expect the first vote on Wednesday.

The Respect for Marriage Act, which my colleagues Senators BALDWIN, SINEMA, COLLINS, and others have done a great job working on, is an extremely important and much needed bill. No American should ever, ever be discriminated against because of whom they love, and passing this bill would secure these much needed safeguards into Federal law.

I want to make clear that passing this bill is not a theoretical exercise, but it is as real as it gets. When the Supreme Court overturned Roe, Justice Thomas argued that other rights, like the right to marriage equality enshrined in Obergefell, could come next.

Now, the Senate had a chance to bring marriage protection to the floor for a vote back in September, but at the urging of colleagues from both sides of the aisle, I agreed to wait because we were given an assurance that enough votes would materialize after the election. Because my top priority is to get things done in a bipartisan way whenever we can, we determined that this legislation was too important to risk failure, so we waited to give bipartisanism a chance.

I hope, for the sake of tens of millions of Americans, that at least 10 Republicans will vote with us to protect marriage equality into law soon. The rights and dignity of millions of Americans depend on it.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative 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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 449, H.R. 8404, a bill to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and ensure respect for State regulation of marriage, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Tammy Baldwin, Brian Schatz, Margaret Wood Hassan, Patty Murray, Tammy Duckworth, Jeff Merkley, Jacky Rosen, Richard J. Durbin, Debbie Stabenow, Elizabeth Warren, Mazie Hirono, Alex Padilla, Gary C. Peters, Jeanne Shaheen, Catherine Cortez Masto, Benjamin L. Cardin, Robert P. Casey, Jr.

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call for the cloture motion filed today, November 14, be waived.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I yield the floor.

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

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

The Senator from Indiana.

VETERANS DAY

Mr. YOUNG. Madam President, panel 2E, row 71. Not long ago, a young lady visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial during a visit to Washington, DC. She walked along the wall searching the black granite panels, and she saw the name right there in front of her. She stopped and pressed her hand against it. It was panel 2E, row 71, Alvin C. Forney.

Across our country, not just on our National Mall but on the boulevards of our State capitals and in the squares of our small towns, there are names of brave Americans etched in memorials, the names of those who never came home. And there are those who did come home, whose names may not be on monuments but whose example of service and sacrifice for their country is no less inspiring.

For two and a half centuries, they have answered the calls. They have protected our freedoms. They placed their lives in the line of fire oceans away so that their countrymen can live lives in peace here at home. They are the citizen soldiers who defeated the King's army, who ended the scourge of slavery, who saved Western civilization and liberated concentration camps, who stood down communism and stand vigil against terrorism. They are more than just names, though. They are the spirit of this country: strong but merciful, forever guarding our freedoms, and devoted to our fellow citizen.

Cpl Alvin Forney lived this example out in his all-too-brief life. He seemed destined, no matter his path, to make a difference. And he did. Tall, handsome, with a bright smile and infectious optimism, he was an ace athlete, a football, track, and basketball star at Shortridge and Washington High Schools in Indianapolis.

A member of a military family, Corporal Forney enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1961, and he went west. He graduated from Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, and then trained in the mountains near Camp Pendleton. He endured the forced marches and step hikes in the tarantula- and rattlesnake-filled scrub.

San Diego-trained marines are sometimes derisively called Hollywood marines by their Paris Island peers. You see, Tinseltown is just up the Pacific Coast Highway. But if Hollywood did ever try to create the ideal marine, Corporal Forney could be its muse.

You can see it in the old photos, the focus, the confident air, the spotless uniform. He looked like a gentleman marine, a hero. And he wasn't just courageous or strong. He was patient and decent. Slow to anger, he seldom swore—a rarity, of course, for a U.S.

marine. He loved his family, and he loved his country.

When he arrived in Vietnam in the summer of 1965 as part of the Third Marine Expeditionary Force, his chief concern was not for himself. It was for his brother. You see, Army SGT William Forney, the corporal's brother, was departing for Vietnam. Corporal Forney wrote their mother, Minnie:

I don't mind being over here, but I worry about Bill coming over.

You see, his brother William had married shortly before deploying, and Corporal Forney was concerned about his brother's separation from his new bride.

Shortly after that letter arrived, a military car pulled into the driveway. It was a telegraph from the Department of Defense that came. Cpl Alvin Forney had been struck by fragments of a mine during a patrol, and he was killed in action near Da Nang. It was September 1, 1965. He was 22 years old.

Corporal Forney was awarded the Purple Heart, and he was laid to rest in Indianapolis's Crown Hill Cemetery among a President and Vice Presidents, poets, businessmen, inventors, and all the rest. And he wasn't at all out of place.

Corporal Forney's mother visited his grave every September until the day she died. Beneath the words on his headstone "Beloved Son and Brother" and after the mention of Vietnam, his headstone read: "The first casualty from Indianapolis"—which he was. But a mere statistic he was not.

It was a half century later that that young lady came to the wall in search of Corporal Forney's name. She came because her grandfather asked her to, because 50 years earlier, he had served with Corporal Forney at Naval Air Engineering Station at Lakehurst, in New Jersey, and he never forgot him. He could still see that squared-away marine. He could still hear his soft-spoken voice. And he could still remember the day in September 1965 when he walked into headquarters at Lakehurst and saw the secretaries sobbing and heard the tragic news: Corporal Forney had been killed in action in Vietnam.

The corporal's family, too, they never forgot him. He is still in their hearts. His younger siblings and cousins, they still remember the days before he left for Vietnam, how kind, loving, and protective he was; the memories of the dinners he treated them to; of popping his fingers and whistling; his enthusiasm and joy.

Just weeks ago, I met Mary Allen, Corporal Forney's younger sister, on a flight back to Indiana. She shared her brother's story and asked that I remember him. I will.

Of course, on Veterans Day, which just passed, we remember all of those who wore the uniform, who pledged their lives to freedom's cause—yes, because they are owed our grateful devotion, our eternal gratitude every day, not just one day in November.

Beyond that, though, to forget them is to take them for granted in an act of

national self-destruction. Decades pass, generations come and go, and values change. In many ways, that is the natural course of a society in search of a more perfect Union. But those who have defended that Union carry with them unbending values—values that are essential to a democracy. Our veterans set an example. They are a monument to the values at the heart of this experiment in liberty: service and sacrifice, humility and honor, loyalty to country and love of countryman, dedication to others and to causes greater than oneself.

Panel 2E, row 71. When that young woman went to the wall in search of panel 2E, row 71, it was not just because her grandfather had served with Alvin Forney. It was because, as her grandfather said, he set an example that all Americans should be proud to follow.

Without citizens like Corporal Forney, there is no America. He is not forgotten. None of our veterans or the example they set are, nor will they ever be.

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 legislative 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 Executive Calendar No. 1130, Maria del R. Antongiorgi-Jordan, of Puerto Rico, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico.

Charles E. Schumer, Raphael G. Warnock, Tim Kaine, Sherrod Brown, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tina Smith, Angus S. King, Jr., John W. Hickenlooper, Cory A. Booker, Christopher Murphy, Amy Klobuchar, Benjamin L. Cardin, Edward J. Markey, Jeanne Shaheen, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Merkley, Alex Padilla, Catherine Cortez Masto, Gary C. Peters.

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 Maria del R. Antongiorgi-Jordan, of Puerto Rico, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 353 Leg.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Romney
Blumenthal	Kaine	Rosen
Booker	Kelly	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Casey	Leahy	Shaheen
Collins	Lujan	Sinema
Coons	Manchin	Smith
Cortez Masto	Markey	Stabenow
Duckworth	Menendez	Tester
Durbin	Merkley	Tillis
Feinstein	Murphy	Van Hollen
Gillibrand	Murray	Warner
Graham	Ossoff	Warren
Grassley	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden

NAYS—43

Barrasso	Fischer	Portman
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Blunt	Hawley	Rounds
Boozman	Hooven	Rubio
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Burr	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Capito	Johnson	Shelby
Cassidy	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Toomey
Cramer	Lummis	Tuberville
Crapo	Marshall	Wicker
Cruz	McConnell	Young
Daines	Moran	
Ernst	Paul	

NOT VOTING—6

Cardin	Hickenlooper	Sasse
Carper	Murkowski	Warnock

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 43.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

VETERANS DAY

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I asked my colleagues to join me in honoring and thanking the heroic individuals who have served our country.

Every year on Veterans Day—just a couple of days ago—we come together as Ohioans or Oregonians and New Mexicans and Americans generally to remember with deep respect and gratitude all that our veterans have done for our country.

Veterans and their families have sacrificed so much to keep us safe. They put their lives on the line to protect us.

So often veterans don't speak about their service. My dad was a World War II veteran. He rarely talked about it. It was pretty typical of that generation; not so different from Vietnam vets, many of whom suffered from Agent Orange, or from Iraqi or Afghan war vets. They don't brag, they don't ask for recognition, but they have earned it.

As we pay tribute to all who serve and all who have served, we must remember that we owe veterans and their families more than just a thank you on Labor Day—or on Veterans Day. We owe them what they have earned: healthcare benefits, education opportunities. Taking care of our veterans is a cost of going to war.

Now, I have heard—I am going to talk about the PACT Act in a moment. Senator MERKLEY and I were just talking about it, the long overdue step we took to pass the PACT Act. A number

of our more conservative colleagues said it cost too much. They never say it costs too much to send people to war. It only costs too much to take care of the men and women who have served us in providing healthcare at the CBOC in Mansfield or the VA in Dayton or the VA in Cleveland.

We took this year a long overdue step to pass the PACT Act. We secured the most comprehensive—the single-most comprehensive benefit expansion for veterans in our Nation's history.

Some of you in this body remember, with Agent Orange, at the beginning, to get Agent Orange benefits you had to prove that you got sick because of the exposure to Agent Orange, and some veterans had to hire lawyers, and it just didn't make sense.

Well, we learned the lessons from Agent Orange in the PACT Act. When President Biden signed this bill he delineated—we delineated—23 illnesses, mostly bronchial and cancers—bronchial illnesses and cancers. And if you as a veteran who served in Iraq or Afghanistan or, you know, in some other theaters, if you had one of those illnesses, you could get treatment at the Zanesville CBOC or the Chillicothe VA or the Cincinnati VA.

It means now that post-9/11 combat veterans are now eligible for this VA care. It means we also expanded coverage for veterans exposed to Agent Orange and for those exposed to burn pits and other toxins.

It means if you are exposed to toxins while serving your country, you get the benefits you have earned—period, no exceptions.

We couldn't have done it without the lessons of Agent Orange and the activism of our servicemembers and families.

I have spent much of the last 6 weeks doing roundtables of 6, 8, 10, a dozen veterans, in rural communities and cities alike in my State, and most of them weren't yet aware of what this bill meant. It does mean that if they have any one of these illnesses and they were exposed to these burn pits—these football field-size burn pits that burn everything from industrial waste to tires to computers to human waste to who knows what—if they were exposed, then they got the help that they have earned.

I encourage all veterans to go to va.gov/pact—p-a-c-t—to find out more about the law and see what benefits you may be eligible for.

This is just the start of veterans finally, finally, finally getting the help of a grateful nation.

This bill came to my attention about 5 years ago. This problem came to my attention. A woman from Sandusky, OH, told me about her son-in-law, who was healthy, a distance runner, until about a year earlier, and he was diagnosed with a bronchial illness and then a cancer—a rare cancer, but a cancer that was recognizable to VA doctors.

He has since passed away. His name is Heath Robinson. We named this bill

that Senator TESTER worked so hard on and Senator MORAN, a Republican and a Democrat—they worked so hard on it to make sure it was enacted into law.

Again, I urge veterans to go to va.gov/pact to find out more about the law.

Earlier this month, the VA and the Department of Housing and Urban Development announced an 11-percent drop in veterans' homelessness over the last 2 years, in part because of the work of this new President and this new Senate and the work we are doing with the VA.

It is progress. We have more work to do. I will continue to travel across Ohio and to hold roundtables with veterans to talk about the PACT Act. I am going to keep talking to veterans around the State.

With my colleagues in the Senate and with members of the Veterans Affairs Committee, we will continue fighting so every veteran has the benefits they deserve.

We will never forget the debt we owe. We are humbled by their commitment to service. And you can't talk about veterans without thanking the military families—the families of Heath Robinson—the family of Heath Robinson, who fought to make sure he got those benefits. And his legacy—in spite of his tragic death, his legacy of helping veterans will move on.

It was the county veterans service officers. Ohio is lucky. Most States don't have this. We have a veterans service organization, a commission in every one of the 88 counties, so that there are at least 2 employees—and in some cases 50, in the largest counties—who take care of veterans who have all kinds of issues and problems. So for our veterans service officers and then all the veteran service organizations, like the VFW and the DAV and the American Legion and the Polish-American Veterans, and so many others who work every day to support veterans and their families, we honor their sacrifice.

This bill happened because of the activism of veterans' families, because of the veteran service organizations, and this body recommits—as Senator MERKLEY does, I know, and the Presiding Officer recommit—to fighting for veterans, fighting for military families.

On behalf of a grateful nation, thank you for your service.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I couldn't agree more with the words of my colleague from Ohio, Senator SHERROD BROWN.

It is unbelievable how long it took to do basic justice for our veterans serving us in some of the most difficult conditions in Iraq and Afghanistan to get their illnesses treated without them having to basically solicit legal help to connect that illness to their work.

The fact that these 23 illnesses are now automatically covered for a vet-

eran who served near a toxin is just a terrific step forward.

And I am so pleased that we are making encouraging progress on veterans' housing. For our veterans to come back and be in the situation of facing the stress of return, the stress of reentering the workforce, and not have basic housing is unacceptable, and it is one of the ways we show that we are, in fact, a grateful nation for their service.

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER "J.P." PIORKOWSKI

Mr. President, I am pleased to be on the floor tonight to say thank you to one of my team members who has been part of my Senate team for 14 years and is now headed over to work with the Peace Corps, and I want to say a little bit about the critical role that she played in my office and on my team.

When I first came here for orientation in 2009, I heard wise words, and that was that perhaps the most important person on your team is not your chief of staff, it is not your legislative director, it is not the head of your communications. It is your scheduler, the person who monitors and controls your time, because time is what you can't make any more of, and everyone will want a piece of it. The key person on your team—the hub of your team—is your scheduler.

The scheduler has to figure out how to fit in meetings with organizations, both from your home State and from national organizations, into already busy days, and has to figure out which policy conversations need to take place and how many are urgent today and how many can wait until tomorrow or next week, and which networking meetings with other legislators are essential to get onto the calendar.

The scheduler is also essential to our family lives. We have to have a scheduler who understands that our spouses are a key partner in serving in a legislative body, who have to understand that our time spent with our children is a critical part of our responsibilities as a parent. The scheduler has to ensure that the family has its appropriate presence in a Senator's life.

So you need someone who can take all of these competing demands and make sure that attention is paid to them and there is a balanced strategy to address them. Otherwise, serving in the Senate can become an absolutely miserable experience for all involved.

Well, 14 years later, I can say that this piece of advice that I received at orientation was the best piece of advice I heard, the best piece of advice that can be there for an incoming Member.

Over time, the person who schedules your hours, your meetings, makes all those judgments in consultation with you becomes not just a member of the team but a friend, a confidant, a member of your extended family.

And my wife Mary and I, along with our two children, have been blessed to have Jennifer Piorkowski as a member of the Merkley family, and I am so pleased she is able to be with us here tonight.

In fact, Jennifer, who goes by J.P., was part of Team Merkley before there was a Team Merkley.

In 1998, J.P., who had a passing interest in international affairs, called me out of the blue to ask for an informational interview when I was head of World Oregon. So we got together, and I was immediately impressed by that conversation. So I immediately recruited her for a project that we had funded to archive 50 years' worth of World Oregon's records.

It takes somebody with a real organizational mind and energy to accomplish that kind of task, and once we saw her at work on our team, I knew I would have to do everything I could to keep her with us, and she ended up staying with us in many different roles—from bookkeeper to office manager to programming speakers on international issues.

But we couldn't keep her forever because the international world called to her. The Peace Corps called to her, and she started a new chapter in her life of service when she joined the Peace Corps and headed to Albania as part of the first group of volunteers to reenter the country after civil unrest broke out in 1997.

During her 2 years in Albania, she worked with civil society organizations and with children living on the streets and survivors of human trafficking. She worked on enrichment programs to help at-risk Roma girls, a minority population in the country. She secured \$65,000 to increase participation of disabled citizens in municipal decision making.

Her time in-country was so transformative that after her Peace Corps stint ended, she remained in Albania for another year, working as deputy head of mission for a transnational project to combat child trafficking in Kosovo, Greece, and Albania. In that role, among a whole host of great accomplishments, J.P. struck a memorandum of understanding, or MOU, with the Albanian Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Education, which led to the opening of child protection units—child protection units that are still in place and operating to this day.

I can only imagine how many young children have led better lives because J.P. helped open those centers.

So Mary and I arrived here in 2009 and started on this adventure of serving in the Senate, and we pondered: Who can fill this key role, this essential role of scheduling? Who would be the bridge between our office life and our family life? Who would be the extraordinary individual who would serve as a hub for the entire team?

And then we suddenly realized that J.P. was back from Albania and that she was right here in Washington, DC, continuing her terrific work on human trafficking at the Labor Department. It is pretty important work, and we were not sure we could pry her away, steal her away, from that to be on our

Senate team, but, fortunately, we held our breath and she said yes, and we are so lucky to have had her with us this last 14 years.

It was J.P. who initiated my "Good Morning, Oregon" meetings. Every Thursday while we are in session, we open the doors of our conference room to welcome Oregonians who happen to be here in DC for a discussion and a good cup of Stumptown Coffee.

It was J.P. who initiated our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee to address unconscious bias, to work to ensure greater inclusivity, to better integrate diversity, equity, and inclusion into all aspects of our team's work, internally and externally.

It was J.P. who organized our annual staff retreats, both in Oregon and in DC, with unique exercises, including this last year's Scrollathon that made us all ponder our key mission and shared commitment to public service.

And when COVID upended life as we knew it, she stepped in, took charge, and innovated new human resource strategies and helped our team pretty seamlessly transition to the scary world of Zoom and Skype and Teams and other countless tools to ensure we could continue to function on behalf of the people of Oregon.

It was J.P. who strived, year after year, to set the atmosphere of competence and graciousness and supportive connectedness as team members navigated the challenges of both our work life and our home life. She loved nurturing team members as they sought to grow and thrive in their careers.

And I think you would be very hard-pressed to find a member of my team over the past 14 years who did not, at some point, go to J.P. for insight or sage advice.

Over time, J.P. grew in her career, taking on ever-newer and expanded parts of our team work. She was no longer doing the day-to-day scheduling, but was our deputy chief of staff, keeping our whole operation running smoothly.

Now, life often travels in circles. J.P. was an integral part of my team at World Oregon; and after serving in the Peace Corps and returning from Albania, she again became an integral part of my team here in Washington, DC.

And now, J.P.'s life is completing a circle. Seventeen years after her Peace Corps work in Albania, she is returning to help the Peace Corps thrive in the position of Executive Secretariat in the Office of the Director. And I could not think of a better person to help organize that team leading the Peace Corps. Their mission is to help build a better world for all, and my dear friend, my family member, J.P., is just the right person to undertake that mission.

J.P., I cannot begin to thank you enough for all you have done in each chapter of service throughout your life: your service at World Oregon, your service in the Peace Corps, your service

following up in that extra year in Albania, your work at the U.S. Labor Department combating human trafficking and, of course, here in the Senate as a founding member of our team. Thank you for all of that terrific work. And we know that the work you are going to continue to do to contribute to making the Peace Corps an incredibly effective organization will be a significant way to help build a better world. Thank you.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

REMEMBERING TOM EMBERTON

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, last month, Kentucky lost a statesman, a model gentleman, and one of the key mentors of my early career. Former Kentucky Court of Appeals Judge Tom Emberton of Edmonton, KY, passed away this October in a tragic house fire, a sudden and devastating loss for the entire Commonwealth. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Tom's legacy of public service and paying tribute to his extraordinary career.

Tom was born and raised in south central Kentucky and prioritized service to that distinctive community from the outset of his career. He served a 4-year tour of duty with the U.S. Air Force then returned to the Commonwealth for an undergraduate degree at Western Kentucky University and a law degree from the University of Louisville School of Law. Not long after, he moved to Metcalfe County to serve as county attorney, beginning his long work on behalf of the region.

I first got to know Tom a few years later when, upon returning to Kentucky after a stint in Washington, DC, I got involved with his 1971 gubernatorial campaign. Four years prior, Louie B. Nunn had become the Commonwealth's first Republican Governor in two decades, and Tom bet he could build on his success to bring another four years of conservative leadership to the Commonwealth. Tom's campaign was instructive for me; he traveled all across Kentucky, including to deeply Democratic strongholds, to preach the Republican policies that most Kentuckians agreed with but, historically, did not vote for. Ultimately, Tom couldn't pull out a win that year—my future colleague in the U.S. Senate Wendell Ford was elected—but he earned respect from leaders and voters across Kentucky.

Tom was undeterred by his electoral loss and returned to Metcalfe County

to continue his work on behalf of his neighbors and build his law career. In recognition of Tom's outstanding service to the Commonwealth and ability to breach partisan divides, a Democratic Governor appointed him to a vacancy on the Kentucky Court of Appeals in 1987. Voters reelected him to that position twice, and his peers appointed him to serve as chief judge of the court of appeals, a position he held until 2004. By the time of his retirement, the entire Kentucky legal community recognized this once-upstart conservative as a widely revered senior statesman.

Throughout the course of his career, Tom made sure to expand the scope of his service beyond the courtroom and the ballot box. He maintained lifelong involvement with the WKU community, serving with distinction on the school's board of regents and as the WKU Alumni Association Board President. He received repeated recognition from community organizations based in and around Metcalfe County, including the local chamber of commerce and area development district. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet even named Thomas D. Emberton Bridge in Metcalfe County in his honor.

Along the way, Tom and his wife Julia Lee built an amazing home and family in Metcalfe County. His two children, Laura and Tom Jr., five grandchildren, and recently arrived great-grandchildren were the light of his life. I had the pleasure of visiting the Emberton family over the years and reminiscing with Tom about his campaign days and discussing the current state of politics and policy in the Commonwealth. He and Julia Lee also built a special relationship with my wife, Elaine, that all of us have cherished for many years.

I was shocked to hear of Tom's sudden passing last month in a fire, when he heroically saved his wife's life and perished inside his home. Elaine and I are mourning alongside the entire Emberton family and hope they can find some solace in this difficult time. On behalf of the entire Senate, I honor Tom for his service to Kentucky and offer prayers to the Emberton family as they memorialize Tom's incredible life and career.

TRIBUTE TO HOLLIS ALEXANDER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, following a decade of service as Trigg County Judge-Executive, Hollis Alexander is retiring. He has spent 35 years in service to his constituents in a variety of roles and is now looking forward to spending more time with his wife, children, and grandchildren. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Hollis for his work on behalf of Kentucky and honoring him for his service to the Commonwealth.

Hollis got his start in public service through his work with the Cadiz Police Department, which he led as chief for nearly two decades before entering

elected office. Through his career in law enforcement, he became a well-known face to Trigg County locals. His work also caught the eye of statewide leaders, and when Trigg County's previous judge-executive stepped down to take a seat in the State senate, Kentucky's Governor appointed Hollis as his replacement.

Though originally a Democrat, Hollis joined scores of other Kentucky elected officials to switch his party registration and better reflect the conservative values of most of his constituents. Since his original appointment in 2013, Hollis won reelection twice—first as a Democrat, then as a Republican—and earned the trust and confidence of his neighbors.

Hollis lists Trigg County's fiscal strength as one of his proudest accomplishments in office. Through his successful stewardship of county revenues and expenses, he was able to upgrade local government facilities and equipment. Hollis has left Trigg County's government better than it was when he found it, making a mark on his community that his neighbors will feel for years to come.

Judge Alexander says he is looking forward to spending more time with his family—and especially his four grandchildren—after he takes a step back from his current role at this year's end. I know he certainly deserves it after three-and-a-half decades of fine service to Trigg County. On behalf of my Senate colleagues, I wish Hollis the best of luck in the next step of his life and express my deep gratitude for his service to Kentucky.

TRIBUTE TO HARRY BERRY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, after 20 years of service as Hardin County judge-executive, my good friend Harry Berry is retiring. Over the past two decades, he has built a Kentucky-wide reputation for steadfast leadership and selfless service. Today, I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in thanking Judge Berry for his work and wishing him well in his retirement.

Harry took a circuitous route to public service in Hardin County. A Missouri native, he spent much of his early career in the Washington, DC, area, working with the CIA, Army, and other defense agencies to coordinate engineering projects around the world. When Harry decided to retire from that role, he and his wife Jill chose Hardin County as their new home; the county was close to Jill's parents in Hopkins County and offered robust services to the former military personnel who settled in the area after service at Fort Knox.

Harry is a self-described introvert who prefers to approach the world with the quiet, analytical approach he developed as a military engineer rather than the bombast common in politics. Still, he has a keen eye for organization and development, honed through 20 years in the Army and, upon moving

to Hardin County, spotted several local issues he thought he could try his hand at improving. His first run for public office was unsuccessful, but after living in Hardin County for only a few years, he won the county judge-executive race in 2002. He was the first Republican to ever occupy the office.

Twenty years later, Harry says his retail politicking has improved. But his real accomplishments in office have been largely behind the scenes: sound financial management, improved hiring and public services, upgraded government facilities, and extensive economic development spurred by his steady, capable leadership. Under Harry's purview, Hardin County has grown at a quick clip, leveraging its close connections to the Fort Knox military installation to foster new business and growth.

Beyond his public service, Harry has grown roots in Hardin County that will continue to deepen in his retirement. He has leaned into his community's extensive slate of organizations dedicated to caring for veterans, including the Disabled Veterans Association, the VFW, and the Military Officers Association. He promotes philanthropy and volunteerism through the Lions, Masons, and Shriners. As Harry takes a step back from elected office, I am sure these organizations will welcome his interest and energy.

Few leaders can move to a new community and, within only a few years, win an election to be that community's chief elected official. Fewer still can do so without any experience in public office. But Harry did so seamlessly and, 20 years later, has become an indispensable part of Hardin County government. I know I speak for many Kentuckians when I say I am sorry to see him leave this role but thankful for the two decades of service he dedicated to our Commonwealth. On behalf of my Senate colleagues, I congratulate Judge Harry Berry on his well-earned retirement.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY FOXWORTHY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, Fleming County Judge-Executive Larry Foxworthy is stepping down after 20 years of work on behalf of his constituents. His keen management of Fleming County's finances and efforts to shore up government services have left a deep mark on his community. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Judge Foxworthy for his sound leadership and congratulating him on his retirement.

Larry and his wife Joyce are both lifelong residents of northeastern Kentucky's Fleming County, part of a region of the Commonwealth noted for its rolling farmland and historic small towns. Larry has dedicated himself to both preserving that area's heritage and charting a course toward a more vibrant future. As the county has grown in population and economic development over the past two decades,

his leadership has been proven a success.

Judge Foxworthy takes a hands-on approach to leadership. Beyond the fiscal court, he offers input on several boards that impact Fleming County's economy and public services: the Fleming-Mason Airport Board of Directors, the Fleming County Hospital Board of Directors, and the Fleming County Industrial Authority Board of Directors, to name a few. He has taken his expertise region- and Commonwealth-wide, helping the Kentucky Association of Counties advocate for favorable policies on the State and Federal level, and directing economic initiatives in northeastern Kentucky through service as the Buffalo Trace Area Development District Chairman.

Future generations will feel Larry's impact on Fleming County through several tangible improvements he brought to his community. He spearheaded the expansion of the Fleming County Nature Preserve, inviting more tourists to his part of the Commonwealth. He helped protect the Fleming County Hospital from insolvency, guaranteeing continued medical care for his constituents. He has left Fleming County's finances better than he found them, allowing local government to continue to provide the services its citizens rely on.

Larry and Joyce chose to raise their three children in Fleming County and have been blessed to become grandparents in recent years. I know that, in retirement, Larry will cherish the opportunity to spend more time with his growing family and foster the next generation of leaders in Kentucky. I thank Larry for his service and, on behalf of my Senate colleagues, honor him as he charts the next chapter in his life and career.

TRIBUTE TO AL MATTINGLY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, Daviess County Judge-Executive Al Mattingly has served his community with distinction since 2011, earning three terms in office and leading Owensboro toward a bright, prosperous future. Last year, Al announced he would not seek a fourth term in office, following in his predecessors' footsteps by deciding to serve a maximum of 12 years as judge-executive. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Al for his service to Daviess County and thanking him for his effective leadership.

Al felt called to public service early in life and hasn't let up on his commitment since. Following his graduation from Owensboro's Brescia College, he joined the U.S. Army to help protect and defend our Nation. Not long after, he married his wife of more than 50 years, Judy Wolfe, and then returned to his hometown for a career in the private sector.

Al has remained involved in Owensboro's thriving small business community since then and currently

serves as president of the family-owned Acme Plumbing and Heating company. However, two decades ago, he realized he could make his mark on Daviess County beyond that role and ran for the Owensboro City Commission. After winning election in 2003 and again in 2007, Al earned the title of Owensboro mayor pro tem in 2007. This served as the perfect primer for his county-wide service as judge-executive, which began in 2011.

Over the past decade, Al has marked a number of important milestones in Owensboro's history. In just the last year, Owensboro earned the title of "Bluegrass Capital of the World," cementing a yearslong effort to foster the musical arts in Daviess County and bring tourists to the cradle of Bluegrass music in the surrounding region. Al leveraged Owensboro's access to the Ohio River to expand Daviess County's riverport infrastructure and waterfront attractions, inviting economic development for the whole county. But more than anything, Al says his chief achievement has been his unique ability to sit down with his constituents and listen to their concerns, one-on-one. That kind of personal relationship with his neighbors and voters has always been the lynchpin of Al's career.

Al says he looks forward to spending more time with his wife and family during his retirement and is also likely to expand his lifetime involvement with his church, Our Lady of Lourdes. After his decades of service to Daviess County, he has certainly earned the right to take a step back from the public eye and enjoy his retirement. On behalf of the Commonwealth and the U.S. Senate, I would like to express my immense gratitude to Al for his work on behalf of Daviess County and wish him well in the next step in his career.

TRIBUTE TO WADE WHITE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, after three terms as Lyon County judge-executive, my good friend Wade White is stepping down from his position and has been nominated to serve on the Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors. His proven leadership in local government has caught the eye of Federal leaders, but I know his focus remains on Kentucky and helping his community access the inexpensive, reliable power TVA promises to provide to a wide swath of our Commonwealth. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Wade for his public service and wishing him the best in the next step in his career.

Wade's heart has always been in serving his neighbors and home State. Even before his community elected him to serve as their top county official, he made a mark on Kentucky as a youth minister and insurance adjuster—in both roles, helping people as they went through tough times. Twelve years ago, he threw his hat in the ring and successfully pursued election as county judge-executive. He has lent his top-

tier leadership and expertise to Lyon County ever since.

During his tenure, Wade's focus has been set squarely on some of the long-term challenges facing Lyon County. As one of the two Kentucky counties encompassing Land Between the Lakes, Lyon County and its leaders play an important role in advocating for prudent Federal land management policies. Wade and I have worked together closely to ensure Land Between the Lakes continues to offer economic and recreational opportunities for generations of Kentuckians to come.

Wade has also prioritized two pressing issues facing waterways in his region of Kentucky: improving Barkley Dam and addressing the ongoing Asian carp infestation. His work on these issues served as strong preparation for his nomination to the TVA Board, which plays a key role in managing Kentucky's waterways. The board also lacks representation from our State, despite serving 215,000 Kentucky households; Wade's unique perspective promises to bring balance to the organization and its priorities.

Though Wade is taking a step back from elected office, his career in public service is far from over. He will continue to steward Kentucky's development, just as he did during—and even before—his tenure as Lyon County judge-executive. On behalf of my Senate colleagues, I thank Wade for his hard work on behalf of Kentucky and look forward to his future service to our Nation.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 22-0P. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades

from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 21-61 of October 8, 2021.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-0P

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(C), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of Australia.
(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 21-61; Date: October 8, 2021; Military Department: Navy.

(iii) Description: On October 8, 2021, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 21-61, of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of twelve (12) MH-60R Multi-Mission helicopters; thirty (30) T-700-GE-401C engines (24 installed, 6 spares); twelve (12) APS-153(V) Multi-Mode Radars (installed); twelve (12) AN/AAS-44C(V) Multi-Spectral Targeting Systems (installed); thirty-four (34) Embedded Global Positioning System/Precise Positioning Service (GPS/PPS)/Inertial Navigation Systems (EGI) with Selective Availability/Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) (24 installed, 10 spares); twenty (20) Link 16 Multifunctional Information Distribution Systems (MIDS)—Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS) (12 installed, 8 spares); twelve (12) GAU-61 Digital Rocket Launchers (aircraft provisions only); twelve (12) Airborne Low Frequency Sonars (ALFS) (aircraft provisions only); eighteen (18) AN/AAR-47 Missile Warning Systems (12 installed, 6 spares); eighteen (18) AN/ALE-47 Chaff and Flare Dispenser, Electronic Countermeasures (12 installed, 6 spares); twelve (12) AN/ALQ-210 Electronic Support Measures (ESM) Systems (installed); twenty-four (24) M299 Missile Launchers; twelve (12) GAU-21 Crew Served Guns aircraft provisions (installed, includes aircraft adapter, ammunition bin, and other accessories); twelve (12) M240D Crew Served Gun Cradles (installed); and eighteen (18) AN/ARQ-59 Hawklink Radio Terminals (12 installed, 6 spares). Also included were AN/ARC-210 RT-2036 UHF/VHF radios with Communications Security (COMSEC); AN/APX-123 Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) transponders; KIV-78; KIV-6; KOV-21; KGV-135A; Advanced Data Transfer Systems (ADTS); Airborne Low Frequency Sonars (ALFS) Training Simulators/Operational Machine Interface Assistants (ATS OMIA); spare engine containers; trade studies with industry to determine the feasibility and cost of implementing provisions for additional passenger seating and modifications to achieve enhanced crew survivability; defense services; spare and repair parts; support and test equipment; communication equipment; ferry support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; United States (U.S.) Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; obsolescence engineering, integration, and test activities required to ensure readiness for the production of the Australian MH-60R helicopters; and other related elements of programmatic, technical and logistics support. The estimated total cost was \$985 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$665 million of this total.

This transmittal notifies the addition of the following MDE items: one (1) MH-60R Multi-Mission helicopter; two (2) T-700-GE-401C engines (installed); two (2) Embedded Global Positioning System/Precise Positioning Service (GPS/PPS)/Inertial Navigation Systems (EGI) with Selective Availability/Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) (in-

stalled); and one (1) Link 16 Multifunctional Information Distribution Systems (MIDS)—Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS) (installed). Also included is non-MDE APS-153(V) multi-mode radar; AN/AAS-44C(V) Multi-Spectral Targeting System; AN/AAR-47 Missile Warning System; AN/ALE-47 Chaff and Flare Dispenser, Electronic Countermeasures; AN/ALQ-210 Electronic Support Measures (ESM) System; and AN/ARQ-59 Hawklink radio terminal. The estimated total value of these items is \$49.21 million, but will not cause an increase in the total estimated program cost. The total estimated case value will remain \$985 million with MDE remaining \$665 million of this total.

(iv) Significance: The proposed sale will improve Australia's capability to perform anti-surface and antisubmarine warfare missions along with the ability to perform secondary missions including vertical replenishment, search and rescue, and communications relay. Australia will use the enhanced capability as a deterrent to regional threats and to strengthen its homeland defense.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States. Australia is one of our most important allies in the Western Pacific. The strategic location of this political and economic power contributes significantly to ensuring peace and economic stability in the region. It is vital to the U.S. national interest to assist our ally in developing and maintaining a strong and ready self-defense capability.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The Sensitivity of Technology Statement contained in the original notification applies to items reported here.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: November 2, 2022.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 22-57, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Australia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$162 million. After

this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-57

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Australia.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$0 million.
Other \$162 million.
Total \$162 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: Foreign Military Sales (FMS) case AT-P-KOB was below congressional notification threshold at \$89.8 million for non-MDE MH-60R sustainment. The Government of Australia has requested the case be amended to include additional non-MDE MH-60R sustainment items and services. This case amendment will increase the total case value above the non-MDE notification threshold and thus require notification of the entirety of the FMS case.

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-MDE: Included are MH-60R aircraft sustainment consumables and spare and repair parts; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (AT-P-KOB).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: AT-P-KOA.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: October 19, 2022.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Australia—MH-60R Sustainment

The Government of Australia has requested to buy additional non-MDE MH-60R sustainment items and services that will be added to a previously implemented case. The original FMS case, valued at \$89.8 million, included MH-60R sustainment. The estimated total cost is \$162 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States. Australia is one of our most important allies in the Western Pacific. The strategic location of this political and economic power contributes significantly to ensuring peace and economic stability in the region. It is vital to the U.S. national interest to assist our ally in developing and maintaining a strong and ready self-defense capability.

The proposed sale will continue Australia's capability to interoperate with U.S. forces by maintaining alignment with the U.S. Navy's MH-60R program and maintain mission readiness to deter regional threats and strengthen its homeland defense. Australia will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Lockheed Martin, Owego, NY. There are no known off-set agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Australia.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 22-62, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Australia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$6.35 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

J. AARON HARDING
(For James A. Hursch, Director).
Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-62

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Australia.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$4.76 billion.

Other \$1.59 billion.

Total \$6.35 billion.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Twenty-four (24) C-130J-30 Aircraft with Four (4) each Rolls Royce AE-2100D Turboprop Engines installed.

Twenty-four (24) Rolls Royce AE-2100D Turboprop Engines with Quick Engine Change Assembly (QECA) and Propellers installed (spares).

Sixty (60) Embedded Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation System (GPS/INS) (EGI) Security Devices, Airborne (48 installed, 12 spares).

Thirty-two (32) AN/ALQ-251 Radio Frequency Countermeasure (RFCM) Systems.

Twenty-seven (27) Guardian Laser Transmitter Assemblies (GLTA) for Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures (LAIRCM) Systems (24 installed, 3 spares).

Sixteen (16) AN/AAQ-24(V)N LAIRCM System Processor Replacements (LSPR) (12 installed, 4 spares).

Twenty-four (24) Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio System (MIDS JTRS) (installed)

Non-MDE: Also included are AN/AAQ-24(V)N LAIRCM Infrared Missile Warning Sensors (MWS), Control Interface Unit Replacements (CIRU), and classified memory card User Data Modules (UDM); KYV-5M communication security modules; AN/ARC-190 High Frequency (HF) radios; AN/ARC-210 radios; AN/ARN-153 tactical airborne navigation (TACAN) systems; AN/ARN-147 receivers; AN/ARN-149 (V) automatic direction finders; AN/APX-119 Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) transponders; AN/AAR-47 missile warning systems; AN/APN-241 Low-Power Color Radars (LPCR); AN/ALE-47 Countermeasures Dispensing Systems (CMDS); AN/ALR-56 Radar Warning Receivers (RWR); AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loaders; MX-20HD electro-optical/infrared targeting systems; AN/KIV-77 IFF cryptographic appliques; Advanced Digital Antenna Production (ADAP) system components; integration support and test equipment; aircraft and support equipment; secure communications equipment, precision navigation, and cryptographic devices; classified software delivery and support; spare and repair parts, consumables and accessories; maintenance and maintenance support; classified manuals, publications, and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment, and U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services, studies and surveys; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (AT-D-SAI).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: November 2, 2022.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Australia—C-130J-30 Aircraft

The Government of Australia has requested to buy twenty-four (24) C-130J-30 aircraft with four (4) each Rolls Royce AE-2100D turboprop engines installed; twenty-four (24) Rolls Royce AE-2100D turboprop engines with Quick Engine Change Assembly (QECA) and propellers installed (spares); sixty (60) Embedded Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation System (GPS/INS) (EGI) security devices, airborne (48 installed, 12 spares); thirty-two (32) AN/ALQ-251 Radio Frequency Countermeasure (RFCM) systems; twenty-seven (27) Guardian Laser Transmitter Assemblies (GLTA) for Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures (LAIRCM) systems (24 installed, 3 spares); sixteen (16) AN/AAQ-24(V)N LAIRCM System Processor Replacements (LSPR) (12 installed, 4 spares); and twenty-four (24) Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio System (MIDS JTRS) (installed). Also included are AN/AAQ-24(V)N LAIRCM Infrared Missile Warning Sensors (MWS), Control Interface Unit Replacements (CIRU), and classified memory card User Data Modules (UDM); KYV-5M communication security modules; AN/ARC-190 High Frequency (HF) radios; AN/ARC-210 radios; AN/ARN-153 tactical airborne navigation (TACAN) systems; AN/ARN-147 receivers; AN/ARN-149(V) automatic direction finders; AN/APX-119 Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) transponders;

AN/AAR-47 missile warning systems; AN/APN-241 Low-Power Color Radars (LPCR); AN/ALE-47 Countermeasures Dispensing Systems (CMDS); AN/ALR-56 Radar Warning Receivers (RWR); AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loaders; MX-20HD electro-optical/infrared targeting systems; AN/KIV-77 IFF cryptographic appliques; Advanced Digital Antenna Production (ADAP) system components; integration support and test equipment; aircraft and support equipment; secure communications equipment, precision navigation, and cryptographic devices; classified software delivery and support; spare and repair parts, consumables and accessories; maintenance and maintenance support; classified manuals, publications, and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment, and U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services, studies and surveys; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total cost is \$6.35 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States. Australia is one of our most important allies in the Western Pacific. The strategic location of this political and economic power contributes significantly to ensuring peace and economic stability in the region. It is vital to the U.S. national interest to assist our ally in developing and maintaining a strong and ready self-defense capability.

The proposed sale will improve Australia's capability to meet current and future threats by providing the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) with replacements for its aging cargo fleet, guaranteeing a reliable airlift capability, and allowing the RAAF to improve its overall operational capability. Australia will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Lockheed Martin Corporation, Marietta, GA. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Australia.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-62

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The C-130J-30 Super Hercules is a military airlift aircraft that performs primarily the tactical portion of the airlift mission. The aircraft is capable of operating from rough, dirt strips and is the prime transport for air dropping troops and equipment into hostile areas. The C-130J is faster, goes further and holds more compared to legacy platforms, translating to greater power and enhanced capabilities.

a. The Rolls Royce AE 2100D3 is a 3,400 kW Turboprop Engine and the primary power plant on the C-130J Hercules military airlift aircraft. It uses dual Full Authority Digital Engine Control (FADEC) to control both engine and propeller.

b. The C-130J-30 is a stretch version of the C-130J. It adds 15 feet to the fuselage, increasing usable space in the cargo compartment to accommodate two more pallets of equipment.

2. The M-Code capable Embedded Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation System (GPS/INS) (EGI), with an embedded GPS

Precise Positioning Service (PPS) Receiver Application Module-Standard Electronic Module (GRAM-S/M), is a self-contained navigation system that provides acceleration, velocity, position, attitude, platform azimuth, magnetic and true heading, altitude, body angular rates, time tags, and co-ordinated universal time (UTC) synchronized time. The embedded GRAM-S/M enables access to both the encrypted P(Y) and M-Code signals, providing protection against active spoofing attacks, enhanced military exclusivity, integrity, and anti-jam.

3. The AN/ALQ-251 radio frequency countermeasure (RFCM) system provides superior situational awareness and protection against electronic warfare systems and radar-guided weapons systems in contested and congested electromagnetic spectrum environments.

4. The AN/AAQ-24(V)N LAIRCM system is a self-contained, directed-energy countermeasures system designed to protect aircraft from infrared-guided surface-to-air missiles. The LAIRCM system features digital technology micro-miniature solid-state electronics. The system operates in all conditions, detecting incoming missiles and jamming infrared-seeker equipped missiles with aimed bursts of laser energy. The LAIRCM system consists of multiple Missile Warning Sensors, the Guardian Laser Transmitter Assembly (GLTA), a System Processor Replacement (LSPR), a Control Interface Unit Replacement (CIUR), and a Classified Memory Card User Data Module (UDM).

a. The LAIRCM Missile Warning Sensors detect and declare threat missiles. The sensors are mounted on the aircraft exterior to provide omni-directional protection. The sensors detect the rocket plume of missiles and send appropriate data signals to the System Processor Replacement (LSPR) for processing.

b. The Guardian Laser Transmitter Assembly (GLTA) is a laser transmitter pointer/tracker subsystem designed to track the inbound threat missile and point the laser jam source at the missile's seeker. The GLTA automatically deploys the countermeasure.

c. The LSPR analyzes the data from each Missile Warning Sensor and automatically deploys the appropriate countermeasure via the GLTA. The LSPR contains Built-in-Test (BIT) circuitry.

d. The Control Interface Unit Replacement (CIUR) displays the incoming threat for the pilot to take appropriate action. The CIUR also provides operator interface to program the LAIRCM system to initiate built-in-test (BIT), to display system status, and to provide the crew with bearing to threat missile launch.

e. The UDM card contains the laser jam codes. It is loaded into the LSPR prior to flight; when not in use, the Classified Memory Card User Data Module is removed from the LSPR and put in secure storage.

5. The Multifunctional Information Distribution System (MIDS) with Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS) is an advanced Link-16 command, control, communications, and intelligence (C3I) system incorporating high-capacity, jam-resistant, digital communication links for exchange of near real-time tactical information, including both data and voice, among air, ground, and sea elements.

6. The KYV-5M Communication Security Module enables secure voice for the ANDVT.

7. The AN/ARC-190 is a solid-state, high-frequency (HF) transceiver that provides beyond-line-of-sight communications capability for various military airborne applications.

8. The AN/ARC-210 is a voice communications radio system equipped with HAVE QUICK II, which employs cryptographic technology. Other waveforms may be included as needed.

9. The AN/ARN-153 is an airborne receiver-transmitter component of the Tactical Airborne Navigation (TACAN) avionics system.

10. AN/ARN-147 receivers combine all VHF Omni Ranging/Instrument Landing System (VOR/ILS) functions into one compact, lightweight set.

11. The AN/ARN-149(V) low-frequency, automatic direction finding system provides automatic pointing to low-frequency and medium-frequency non-directional beacons (NDB), standard broadcast stations, and emergency stations on frequencies of 500 and 2182 kHz. An aural output provides station identification, weather reporting, and AM broadcast audio.

12. The AN/APX-119 is an Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) transponder that provides military aircraft with a secure combat identification capability to help reduce fratricide and enhance battlespace awareness, while providing safe access to civilian airspace.

13. The AN/AAR-47A(V)2 Missile Warning System is a small, lightweight, passive, electro-optic, threat warning device used to detect surface-to-air missiles fired at helicopters and low-flying, fixed-wing aircraft and automatically provide countermeasures, as well as audio and visual-sector warning messages to the aircrew.

14. The AN/APN-241 is a Low-Power Color Radar (LPCR) are radars in the transport class with a high resolution SAR mapping mode. In addition to meeting needs for precision navigation, this radar enables operators to execute landing missions on unimproved runways without aid from ground-based landing systems.

15. The AN/ALE-47 countermeasures dispensing system (CMDS) is an integrated, threat-adaptive, software programmable dispensing system capable of dispensing chaff, flares, and active radio frequency expendables. The AN/ALE-47 uses data received over the aircraft interfaces to assess the threat situation and to determine a response.

16. The AN/ALR-56 is a computer-controlled, advanced radar warning receiver (RWR) designed to provide improved aircrew situational awareness of the radar guided threat environment through improved performance in a dense signal environment and improved detection of modern threats signals.

17. The AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loader is a handheld device used for securely receiving, storing, and transferring data between compatible cryptographic and communications equipment.

18. The MX-20HD is a gyro-stabilized, multi-spectral, multi-field-of-view (FOV) Electro-Optical/Infrared (EO/IR) targeting system. The system provides surveillance laser illumination and laser designation through use of an externally mounted turret sensor unit and internally mounted master control. Sensor video imagery is displayed in the aircraft real time and may be recorded for subsequent ground analysis.

19. The KIV-77 is a cryptographic applique for IFF. It can be loaded with Mode 5 classified elements.

20. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

21. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

22. A determination has been made that Australia can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive tech-

nology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

23. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to Australia.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN, Pursuant to the reporting of Section 26(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 22-63, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Belgium for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$380 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

JAMES. H. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-63

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Belgium.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment * \$358 million.

Other \$22 million.

Total \$380 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Up to one hundred twenty (120) AIM-120C-8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM).

Ten (10) AMRAAM C-8 Guidance Sections. Non-MDE: Also included are spare AIM-120 control sections and containers; AIM-120C Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM); other spare parts, consumables, accessories, and repair/return support; classified software; books, technical documentation, and other publications; training and training equipment; munitions support and support equipment; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (BED-YCG).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: N/A.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: November 8, 2022.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Belgium—Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles for F-16 and F-35 Programs

The Government of Belgium has requested to buy up to one hundred twenty (120) AIM-120C-8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM); and ten (10) AMRAAM C-8 Guidance Sections. Also included are spare AIM-120 control sections and containers; AIM-120C Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM); other spare parts, consumables, accessories, and repair/return support; classified software; books, technical documentation, and other publications; training and training equipment; munitions support and support equipment; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total cost is \$380 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally which is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Belgium's capability to meet current and future threats by maintaining its F-16 and F-35 fleets in combat-ready status and providing a credible deterrent to regional threats. Belgium will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Raytheon Missile Systems, Tucson, AZ. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Belgium.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-63

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The AIM-120C-8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM) is a supersonic, air launched, aerial intercept, guided missile featuring digital technology and micro-miniature solid-state electronics. AMRAAM capabilities include look-down/shoot-down, multiple launches against multiple targets, resistance to electronic countermeasures, and interception of high- and low-flying and maneuvering targets. This potential sale will include Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM) as well as AMRAAM guidance section and control section spares.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Belgium can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to Belgium.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(A) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 0P-22. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 20-42 of June 15, 2020.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 0P-22

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(A), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of Canada.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 20-42; Date: June 15, 2020; Military Department: Navy.

(iii) Description: On June 15, 2020, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 20-42, of the possible sale under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act of fifty (50) Sidewinder AIM-9X Block II Tactical missiles; fifty (50) Sidewinder AIM-9X Block II Captive Air Training Missiles (CATMs); ten (10) Sidewinder AIM-9X Block II Special Air Training Missiles (NATMs); ten (10) Sidewinder AIM-9X Block II Tactical Guidance Units; ten (10) Sidewinder AIM-9X Block II CATM Guidance Units; thirty-eight (38) APG-79(V)4 Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar units; thirty-eight (38) APG-79(V)4 AESA Radar A1 kits; twenty (20) Joint Standoff

Weapon (JSOW) C, AGM-154C; forty-six (46) F/A-18A Wide Band RADOMES. Also included were additional technical and logistics support for the AESA radar; upgrades to the Advanced Distributed Combat Training System (ADCTS) to ensure flight trainers remain current with the new technologies; software development to integrate the systems listed into the F/A-18A airframe and install Automated Ground Collision Avoidance System (Auto GCAS); thirty (30) Bomb Release Unit (BRU)—42 Triple Ejector Racks (TER); thirty (30) Improved Tactical Air Launched Decoy (ITALD); one hundred four (104) Data Transfer Device/Data Transfer Units (DTD/DTU); twelve (12) Joint Mission Planning System (JMPS); one hundred twelve (112) AN/ARC-210 RT-2036 (Gen 6) radios and F/A-18 integration equipment; support equipment; tools and test equipment; technical data and publications; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total cost was \$862.3 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$204.5 million of this total.

This transmittal reports a value increase due to current cost increases involved with the software development for the Hornet Extension Project but does not require additional MDE. The cost increase supports technically challenging and first of its kind development software necessary to integrate systems into the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) F/A-18 aircraft. The estimated total MDE value will remain \$204.5 million. The non-MDE value will increase by \$80 million, resulting in a new estimated total case value of \$942.3 million.

(iv) Significance: This notification is being provided as the pricing for the original notification was outdated and requires an increase.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the military capability of Canada, a NATO ally that is an important force for ensuring political stability and economic progress, and a contributor to military, peacekeeping and humanitarian operations around the world.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The Sensitivity of Technology Statement contained in the original notification applies to items reported here.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: October 19, 2022.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

The Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(A) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 00-22. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 14-49 of September 24, 2014.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 00-22

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(A), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of Canada.
(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 14-49.

Date: September 24, 2014.

Military Department: Navy.

(iii) Description: On September 24, 2014, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 14-49, of the possible sale under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act of 12 MK-48 Mod 7 Advanced Technology Torpedo Conversion Kits with containers, spare and repair parts, weapon system support and integration, publications and technical documentation, personnel training and training equipment, U.S. Government and contractor engineering and technical, and logistic support services, and other related elements of logistics support. The estimated total cost was \$41 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$25 million of this total.

This transmittal reports a value increase due to current cost increases involved in the production of the MK-48 Mod 7 AT Torpedo Kits but does not require additional MDE. The production of the conversion kits has experienced material cost increases, obsolescence, hardware failures, and hardware rework, which have delayed delivery to Canada. The estimated total MDE value will remain \$25 million. The non-MDE value will increase by \$48 million, resulting in a new estimated total value of \$89 million.

(iv) Significance: This notification is being provided as the pricing for the original notification was outdated and requires an increase. Additional funding is required to provide technical support throughout the entire delivery schedule.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the military capability of Canada, a NATO ally that is an important force for ensuring political stability and economic progress, and a contributor to military, peacekeeping and humanitarian operations around the world.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The Sensitivity of Technology Statement contained in the original notification applies to items reported here.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: October 20, 2022.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control

Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 22-61, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Finland for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$535 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

J. AARON HARDING,
(for James A. Hursch, Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-61

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Finland.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$512 million.
Other \$23 million.
Total \$535 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

One hundred fifty (150) M30A1 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) Alternative Warhead (AW) (Steel Case), or M30A2 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) Alternative Warhead (AW) Missile Pods with Insensitive Munitions Propulsion System (IMPS), or a combination of both.

Two hundred fifty (250) M31A1 GMLRS Unitary (GMLRS-U) Warhead (Steel Case), or M31A2 GMLRS-U IMPS, or a combination of both.

Non-MDE: Also included is a Quality Assurance Team (QAT); transportation services; and other related elements of program and logistics support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (FI-B-VBE).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: FI-B-VBB.
(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.
(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: November 2, 2022.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Finland—Guided Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (GMLRS)

The Government of Finland has requested to buy one hundred fifty (150) M30A1 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) Alternative Warhead (AW) (Steel Case), or M30A2 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) Alternative Warhead (AW) Missile Pods with Insensitive Munitions Propulsion System (IMPS), or a combination of both; and two hundred fifty (250) M31A1 GMLRS Unitary (GMLRS-U) Warhead (Steel Case), or M31A2 GMLRS-U IMPS, or a combination of both. Also included is a Quality Assurance Team (QAT); transportation services; and other related elements of program and logistics support. The total estimated cost is \$535 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by improving the security of a trusted partner, which is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe. It is vital to the U.S. national interest to assist Finland in developing and maintaining a strong and ready self-defense capability.

Finland intends to use these defense articles and services to increase its national stock, bolstering the land and air defense capabilities in Europe's northern flank. The increased national stock is critical to Finland's defense and deterrence due to the deteriorated security situation in Europe. Finland will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors will be Lockheed Martin Corp, Missile and Fire Control, Grand Prairie, TX. There are no known offset agreements in connection with this potential sale. There is a request pending for diversion of 50% of this procurement from U.S. stock. That final decision will determine which version GMLRS could potentially be procured.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Finland.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-61

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The M30A2 GMLRS-Alternative Warhead (AW) is a Department of Defense Cluster Munitions Policy compliant area suppression munition. The AW carries a 200-pound fragmentation assembly filled with high explosives which, upon detonation, accelerates two layers of preformed penetrators optimized for effectiveness against large area and imprecisely located targets. The M30A2 is a material change to the M30A1 GMLRS AW, incorporating the Insensitive Munition Propulsion System (IMPS) complaint motor. The IMPS motor minimizes the probability of inadvertent initiation and severity of collateral damage when subjected to damage, enhances survivability of launch systems and reduces risk of injury to personnel. The M30A2 shares a greater than 90% commonality with the M30A1. Commonalities include the Global Positioning System/Precise Positioning Service (GPS/PPS) aided inertial guidance and control systems, fuzing mechanisms, and multi-option height of burst fuze

capability. They have an identical range of 70km + and a minimum range of 15km.

2. The M31A2 GMLRS Unitary Warhead is the Army's primary munition for the M142 HIMARS and M270A1/M270A2 Multiple Launcher Rocket System (MLRS) Launchers. The M31A2 Unitary is a material change to the M31A1 Unitary incorporating the Insensitive Munition Propulsion System (IMPS) complaint motor. The IMPS motor minimizes the probability of inadvertent initiation and severity of collateral damage when subjected to damage, enhances survivability of launch systems and reduces risk of injury to personnel. The M31A2 shares the same Global Positioning System/Precise Positioning Service (GPS/PPS) aided inertial guidance and control systems, fuzing mechanisms, and multi-mode fuzing capability. They have an identical range of 70km + and a minimum range of 15km.

3. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

4. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

5. A determination has been made that Finland can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

6. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Finland.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 22-59, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Govern-

ment of Japan for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$450 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

J. AARON HARDING,
(for James A. Hursch, Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-59

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Japan.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment * \$200 million.

Other \$250 million.

Total \$450 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Up to thirty-two (32) Standard Missile 6 (SM-6) Block I Missiles (in two tranches of 16).

Non-MDE: Also included are MK 21 Vertical Launch System (VLS) canisters; obsolescence engineering, integration and test activity; canister handling equipment, spares, training and training equipment/aids; technical publications/data; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistical support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (JA-P-AUQ).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: JA-P-ASZ.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: October 20, 2022.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Japan—Standard Missile 6 Block I (SM-6 Blk I) Missiles

The Government of Japan has requested to buy up to thirty-two (32) Standard Missile 6 (SM-6) Block I missiles (in two tranches of 16). Also included are MK 21 Vertical Launch System (VLS) canisters; obsolescence engineering, integration and test activity; canister handling equipment, spares, training and training equipment/aids; technical publications/data; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistical support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total program cost is \$450 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a major ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Asia-Pacific region.

The proposed sale will improve Japan's Air Defense and Ballistic Missile Defense capabilities against potential adversaries in the region. It will also provide the U.S.-Japan Security Alliance with the latest and most advanced capabilities, reducing Japan's reliance on U.S. Forces for the defense of Japan and further improving U.S.-Japan military interoperability. Japan will have no difficulty absorbing these missiles into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Raytheon Missiles and Defense (RMD), Tucson, AZ.

There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require U.S. Government and contractor personnel to visit Japan on a temporary basis in conjunction with program technical oversight and support requirements, including program and technical reviews, as well as to provide training and maintenance support in Japan.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-59

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The Standard Missile-6 (SM-6) is a surface Navy Anti-Air Warfare missile that provides area and ship self-defense. The missile is intended to project power and contribute to raid annihilation by destroying manned fixed and rotary wing aircraft, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV), Land Attack Cruise Missiles, and Anti-Ship Cruise Missiles in flight. It was designed to fulfill the need for a vertically launched, extended range missile compatible with the AEGIS Weapon System to be used against extended range threats at-sea, near land, and over land. The SM-6 combines the tested legacy of STANDARD Missile-2 (SM-2) propulsion and ordnance with an active Radio Frequency seeker allowing for over-the-horizon engagements, enhanced capability at extended ranges, and increased firepower.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Japan can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Japan.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in

the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(A) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 0R-22. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 16-83 of January 31, 2017.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 0R-22

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(A), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Republic of Korea.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 16-83; Date: January 31, 2017; Military Department: Air Force.

(iii) Description: On January 31, 2017, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 16-83, of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of eighty-nine (89) AGM-65G-2 Maverick missiles, missile containers and other related elements of support. The total estimated program cost was \$70 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$66 million of this total.

This transmittal reports the inclusion of an additional one (1) AGM-65G-2 Maverick missile (MDE). The estimated total value of the added MDE item is \$0.67 million, resulting in a new MDE total of \$66.67 million. These costs will not increase the total case value which will remain \$70 million.

(iv) Significance: The proposed sale will increase the Republic of Korea's capability to participate in regional security operations and improves its national security posture.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a Major Non-NATO Ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific region.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The Sensitivity of Technology Statement contained in the original notification applies to additional items reported here.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: October 5, 2022.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed

in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(A) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 0Q-22. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 20-46 of July 10, 2020.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 0Q-22

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(a), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of Republic of Korea.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 20-46; Date: July 10, 2020; Military Department: Air Force.

(iii) Description: On July 10, 2020, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 20-46 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of items and services to extend follow-on support to the Republic of Korea's Peace Krypton reconnaissance aircraft. Included were Ground System Modernization (GSM) and sustainment of Prime Mission Equipment (PME); Field Service Representatives (FSR); minor modifications and upgrades; Joint Mission Planning System (JMPS); spares and repair and return of parts; publications and technical documentation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistical support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total program cost was \$250 million. There was no Major Defense Equipment associated with this sale.

This transmittal reports the addition of the following non-MDE items: additional software, articles, equipment upgrades, and services to again extend follow-on support to the Peace Krypton reconnaissance aircraft. No MDE is being added to this case. The estimated total value of new non-MDE items is \$50 million, resulting in a new total case value of \$300 million.

(iv) Significance: Extending the follow-on support will enable Korea's capability to meet current and future threats by supporting consistent operation of its fleet of Peace Krypton aircraft and ensuring continued Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) interoperability with the United States.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a major ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific region.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The Sensitivity of Technology Statement contained in the original notification applies to items reported here.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: November 8, 2022.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 22-52, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Kuwait for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$3.00 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-52

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Kuwait.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment * \$1.75 billion.
Other \$1.25 billion.
Total \$3.00 billion.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: Kuwait has requested to buy the National Advanced Surface-To-Air Missile System (NASAMS), Medium Range Air Defense System (MRADS) solution comprised of:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
Seven (7) AN/MPQ-64FI Sentinel Radars with Associated Support Equipment.

Sixty-three (63) AIM-120C-8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM).

Sixty-three (63) AMRAAM-Extended Range (AMRAAM-ER) Missiles.

Two (2) AIM-120C-8 AMRAAM Guidance Sections.

Sixty-three (63) AIM-9X Sidewinder Block II Tactical Missiles.

Six (6) AIM-9X Block II Tactical Missile Guidance Units.

Twelve (12) Multifunctional Information Distribution Systems—Low Volume Terminal (MIDS LVT) Block Upgrade 2.

Twelve (12) MIDS LVT Cryptographic Modules (LCM).

Non-MDE: Also included are Fire Distribution Centers (FDC); Canister Launcher Systems (CLS); Tactical Control Center (TCC) Systems; FDC Indoor Training Simulator; Radar Communication Nodes; MIDS LVT BU2 Link 16-capable radios; IPS-250X High Assurance Internet Protocol Encryptions (HAPE); KIV-77 Identification Friend-or-Foe (IFF) Crypto Applique to provide Mode 5 and Mode S capability (must be compatible with Model 5800 IFF); AN/PSN-13 Defense Advanced Global Positioning System (OPS) Receivers (DAGR) with Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM); AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loaders (SKL), Code Loaders and Cable Sets to allow crypto keying capability for each IFF, OPS, and MIDS radio; AIM-120 control sections and containers; AMRAAM and AMRAAM-ER Captive Air Training Missiles (CATMs); weapon system support and support equipment; spare parts, consumables, accessories and repair/return support; classified software; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; studies and surveys; Maintenance Support Shelters, NASAMS U.S. Government and Contractor Technical Support; Technical Assistance Support; Software Integration Support; Construction/Facilities Requirements; communications equipment; tool kits; test equipment; range and test programs; support equipment; prime movers; wheeled vehicles and organizational equipment; spare and repair parts; generators; technical documentation; computer based training equipment; training simulators; spare parts; training; facility construction (radar berms, communication towers, ammunition storage, training facilities, and maintenance facilities); Infrastructure improvements; U.S. Government and contractor technical support; engineering and logistics support services; warranty services; Systems Integration and Checkout (SICO); field office support; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (KU-B-UYG); Air Force (KU-D-YAG); Navy (KU-P-ABP, KU-P-LDI); National Security Agency (KU-M-GAR).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: KU-P-ABI, KU-P-ABO, KU-D-YAC, KU-D-YAD.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: October 6, 2022.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Kuwait—National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System (NASAMS), Medium Range Air Defense System (MRADS)

The Government of Kuwait has requested to buy the National Advanced Surface-To-Air Missile System (NASAMS), Medium Range Air Defense System (MRADS) solution comprised of: seven (7) AN/MPQ-64FI Sentinel radars with associated support equipment; sixty-three (63) AIM-120C-8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM); sixty-three (63) AMRAAM-Extended Range (AMRAAM-ER) missiles; two (2) AIM-120C-8 AMRAAM Guidance Sections; sixty-three (63) AIM-9X Sidewinder Block II tactical missiles; six (6) AIM-9X Block II tactical missile Guidance Units; twelve (12) Multifunctional Information Distribution Systems—Low Volume Terminal (MIDS LVT) Block Upgrade 2; and twelve (12) MIDS LVT Cryptographic Modules (LCM). Also included are Fire Distribution Centers (FDC); Canister Launcher Systems (CLS); Tactical Control Center (TCC) Systems; FDC

Indoor Training Simulator; Radar Communication Nodes; MIDS LVT BU2 Link 16-capable radios; IPS-250X High Assurance Internet Protocol Encryptions (HAPE); KIV-77 Identification Friend-or-Foe (IFF) Crypto Applique to provide Mode 5 and Mode S capability (must be compatible with Model 5800 IFF); AN/PSN-13 Defense Advanced Global Positioning System (OPS) Receivers (DAGR) with Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM); AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loaders (SKL), Code Loaders and Cable Sets to allow crypto keying capability for each IFF, OPS, and MIDS radio; AIM-120 control sections and containers; AMRAAM and AMRAAM-ER Captive Air Training Missiles (CATMs); weapon system support and support equipment; spare parts, consumables, accessories and repair/return support; classified software; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; studies and surveys; Maintenance Support Shelters, NASAMS U.S. Government and Contractor Technical Support; Technical Assistance Support; Software Integration Support; Construction/Facilities Requirements; communications equipment; tool kits; test equipment; range and test programs; support equipment; prime movers; wheeled vehicles and organizational equipment; spare and repair parts; generators; technical documentation; computer based training equipment; training simulators; spare parts; training; facility construction (radar berms, communication towers, ammunition storage, training facilities, and maintenance facilities); Infrastructure improvements; U.S. Government and contractor technical support; engineering and logistics support services; warranty services; Systems Integration and Checkout (SICO); field office support; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated cost is \$3 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of a Major Non-NATO ally that has been an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

The proposed sale will improve Kuwait's capability to meet current and future threats by enhancing the ability to defend itself against regional malign actors and improve interoperability with systems operated by U.S. forces and other Gulf countries. Kuwait's continued investment in its defensive capabilities is crucial to protecting its borders, energy infrastructure, and its residents, including over 4,000 U.S. citizens and military personnel living and working in the country. Kuwait will have no difficulty absorbing this capability into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Raytheon Missiles and Defense, Tucson, AZ. The purchaser typically requests offsets. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of three (3) U.S. Government and five (5) contractor representatives to Kuwait to support delivery of the NASAMS and provide support and equipment familiarization. Six (6) contractors would be deployed to Kuwait for approximately three (3) years for follow-on support of equipment.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-52

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System (NASAMS) Medium Range Air Defense System (MRADS) Description. This is a System of Systems (SOS) consisting of the Sentinel Radar, the Fire Distribution Center (FDC), the AIM-120 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM), the AIM-120 Extended Range Missile (AMRAAM-ER), and the AIM-9X Missile. The NASAMS MRADS is designed for mid-range air defense and can be deployed to engage fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft, cruise missiles, and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). The NASAMS MRADS is not a Program of Record (POR) for the U.S. Department of Defense, but the SOS architecture does consist of several PORs: the U.S. Army's AN/MPQ-64 Sentinel radar, the U.S. Air Force's AIM-120 AMRAAM missile, and the U.S. Navy's AIM-9X Missile. The NASAMS is comprised of both U.S.- and Norwegian-manufactured components. Norwegian components will be procured by the Raytheon Company. Norwegian involvement will be managed by Raytheon using export authorizations received from the U.S. Department of State.

2. NASAMS Fire Unit (FU). Consists of one fire distribution center (FDC), one AN/MPQ-64FI surveillance, acquisition, and tracking radar, 3 truck-mounted Canister Launchers (LCHR), and the High Mobility Launcher (HML) with 6 AMRAAM missiles each.

3. Fire Distribution Center (FDC). The command & control entity, FDC, is the major operator interface in NASAMS. It provides all command and control functionality necessary to effectively conduct Air Defense missions; both in a stand-alone (autonomous) configuration as well as in a netted configuration integrated to other units. The FDC interfaces and controls the MPQ-64FI Sentinel radar and the Canister and High Mobility Launchers. The FDC also interfaces (voice and data) to the national command and control structure.

4. AN/MPQ-64FI Sentinel Radar. This is the organic mobile Air Defense acquisition and tracking sensor for the United States Army. Sentinel provides persistent air surveillance and fire control quality data through command and control systems to defeat Unmanned Aerial System (UAS), cruise missiles, and fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft threats.

5. AIM-120C-8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM). This is a supersonic, air-launched, aerial intercept, guided missile featuring digital technology and micro-miniature solid-state electronics. AMRAAM capabilities include look-down/shoot-down, multiple launches against multiple targets, resistance to electronic countermeasures, and interception of high- and low-flying and maneuvering targets. State-of-the-art technology is used in the missile to provide it with beyond-visual-range capability. Although designed as an air-to-air missile, the AMRAAM can also be employed in a surface-launch mode when integrated on systems such as NASAMS.

a. The AIM-120C-8 AMRAAM-Extended Range (ER) has the same capability as the AMRAAM, but with a larger rocket motor and control section to allow it to travel further.

b. The potential sale will include Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM) and AMRAAM Guidance Sections.

6. Canister Launcher (CLS). Purpose is to transport, aim, and fire the U.S. Air Force AMRAAM, AMRAAM-ER, and the US Navy AIM-9X Sidewinder missiles. Under the remote control of the Fire Distribution Center (FDC), the launcher permits rapid launching of one or more missiles against single or multiple targets and can support 6 engagements simultaneously. The launcher provides 360-degree, all weather, day and night, missile launch capability.

7. AIM 9X Sidewinder Block II Tactical Missiles. The missile includes a high off-boresight seeker, enhanced countermeasure rejection capability, low drag/high angle of attack airframe and the ability to integrate the Helmet Mounted Cueing System.

8. Multifunction Information Distribution System—Low Volume Terminal Block Upgrade 2 (MIDS LVT BU2). The MIDS LVT BU2 is a secure data and voice communication network using the Link-16 architecture; the MIDS LVT Cryptographic Modules (LCM) are the Communications Security (COMSEC) portion of the MIDS LVT BU2 system. The system provides enhanced situational awareness, positive identification of participants within the network, and secure voice capability. The system provides the critical ground link for simultaneous coordination of air, land, and maritime forces.

9. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

10. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

11. A determination has been made that the Government of Kuwait can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

12. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Kuwait.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 22-60, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Lithuania for defense articles

and services estimated to cost \$495 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-60

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Lithuania.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$440 million.

Other \$55 million.

Total \$495 million.

Funding Source: National Funds and Foreign Military Financing (FMF) (if approved).

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Eight (8) M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) Launchers.

Thirty-six (36) M30A2 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) Alternative Warhead (AW) Missile Pods with Insensitive Munitions Propulsion System (IMPS).

Thirty-six (36) M31A2 GMLRS Unitary High Explosive (HE) Missile Pods.

Thirty-six (36) XM403 Extended Range GMLRS (ER GMLRS) Alternative Warhead (AW) Missile Pods with IMPS.

Thirty-six (36) XM404 Extended Range GMLRS (ER GMLRS) Unitary Pods with IMPS.

Eighteen (18) M57 Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) Missile Pods.

Non-MDE: Also included are M28A2 Low Cost Reduced Range Practice Rocket (LCRRPR) pods; International Field Artillery Tactical Data System (IFATDS); battle management system Vehicle Integration Kits; ruggedized laptops; training equipment publications for HIMARS and munitions; and other related elements of program and logistics support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (LH-BUEG).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: November 9, 2022.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Lithuania—M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS)

The Government of Lithuania has requested to buy eight (8) M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) Launchers; thirty-six (36) M30A2 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) Alternative Warhead (AW) Missile Pods with Insensitive Munitions Propulsion System (IMPS); thirty-six (36) M31A2 GMLRS Unitary High Explosive (HE) Missile Pods; thirty-six (36) XM403 Extended Range GMLRS (ER GMLRS) Alternative Warhead (AW) Missile Pods with IMPS; thirty-six (36) XM404 Extended Range GMLRS (ER GMLRS) Unitary Pods with IMPS; and eighteen (18) M57 Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) Missile Pods. Also included are M28A2 Low Cost Reduced Range Practice Rocket (LCRRPR) pods; International Field Artillery Tactical Data System (IFATDS); battle management system Vehicle Integration

Kits; ruggedized laptops; training equipment publications for HIMARS and munitions; and other related elements of program and logistics support. The total estimated cost is \$495 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the military capability of a NATO Ally that is an important force for ensuring political stability and economic progress within Eastern Europe.

The proposed sale will contribute to Lithuania's military goals of updating its capability while further enhancing interoperability with the United States and other allies. Lithuania intends to use these defense articles and services to modernize its armed forces and expand its capability to strengthen its homeland defense and deter regional threats. Lithuania will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Lockheed Martin, Grand Prairie, TX. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require U.S. Government or contractor representatives to travel to Lithuania for program management reviews to support the program. Travel is expected to occur approximately twice per year as needed to support equipment fielding and training.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-60

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) is a C-130 transportable wheeled launcher mounted on a 5-ton Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles truck chassis. HIMARS is the modern Army-fielded version of the M270 Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) launcher, and can fire all of the MLRS Family of Munitions/Missiles (FOM) that includes Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS), Extended Range GMLRS, and the Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS). Utilizing the FOM, the HIMARS can engage targets between 15 and 300 kilometers with Global Positioning System/Precise Positioning Service (GPS/PPS)-aided precision accuracy.

2. The GMLRS M31A2 Unitary is the Army's primary munition for units fielding the M142 HIMARS and M270A1 MLRS Launchers. The M31A2 Unitary is a solid propellant artillery rocket that uses GPS/PPS-aided inertial guidance to accurately and quickly deliver a single high-explosive blast fragmentation warhead to targets at ranges from 15-70 kilometers. The rockets are fired from a launch pod container that also serves as the storage and transportation container for the rockets. Each rocket pod holds six (6) total rockets.

3. The M30A2 GMLRS AW shares a greater than 90% commonality with the M31A1/A2 Unitary. The primary difference between the GMLRS Unitary and GMLRS AW is the replacement of the Unitary high explosive warhead with a 200-pound fragmentation warhead of pre-formed tungsten penetrators which is optimized for effectiveness against a large area and imprecisely located targets. The munitions otherwise share a common motor, GPS/PPS-aided inertial guidance and control system, a multi-option fuzing height of burst capability, and effective range of 15-70 km.

4. The M57 ATACMS Unitary is a conventional, semi-ballistic missile that utilizes a 500-pound high explosive warhead. It has an effective range of between 70 and 300 kilometers, and has increased lethality and accuracy over previous versions of the ATACMS due to a GPS/Precise Position System (PPS) aided navigation system.

5. The ER GMLRS missiles provide a persistent, responsive, all-weather, rapidly deployed, long range, surface-to-surface, area- and point-precision strike capability. The XM403 Alternative Warhead (AW), like GMLRS M30A1/A2, carries a 200-pound fragmentation assembly filled with high explosives which, upon detonation, accelerates two layers of preformed penetrators optimized for effectiveness against large area and imprecisely located targets. The XM404 Unitary, like GMLRS M31A1/A2, has a 200-pound class unitary with a steel blast-fragmentation case, designed for low collateral damage against point targets. Both variants of the ER GMLRS missiles maintain the accuracy and effectiveness demonstrated by the baseline GMLRS out to a maximum range of 150 km (double that of the GMLRS capability).

6. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

7. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

8. A determination has been made that Lithuania can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

9. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Lithuania.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 21-35, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Oman for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$385 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCHE,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21-35

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Oman.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment * \$185 million.

Other \$200 million.

Total \$385 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): Forty-eight (48) AGM-154C Joint Stand Off Weapons (JSOW).

Non-MDE: Also included are Dummy Air Training Missiles; Captive Flight Vehicles (CFVs) and/or Captive Air Training Missiles (CATMs); Environmental Determination Test Vehicles (EDTVs); Free Flight Vehicles (FFVs); containers; mission planning; integration support and testing; munitions storage security and training; weapon operational flight program software development; transportation; tools and test equipment; support equipment; spare and repair parts; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (MU-P-AAF).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: November 9, 2022.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Oman—Joint Stand Off Weapons (JSOW)

The Government of Oman has requested to buy forty-eight (48) AGM-154C Joint Stand Off Weapons (JSOW). Also included are Dummy Air Training Missiles; Captive Flight Vehicles (CFVs) or Captive Air Training Missiles (CATMs); Environmental Determination Test Vehicles (EDTVs); Free Flight Vehicles (FFVs); containers; mission planning; integration support and testing; munitions storage security and training; weapon operational flight program software development; transportation; tools and test equipment; support equipment; spare and repair parts; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support

services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$385 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a friendly country that continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

The proposed sale would increase the Royal Air Force of Oman's ability to secure Oman's borders, airspace, and territorial waters. This expanded capacity will be a force multiplier and help negate regional security threats. Recent attacks on ships in the Gulf of Oman have increased Oman's need for weapons that enable it to defend its territorial waters and ensure freedom of navigation. Oman will have no difficulty absorbing these articles into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Raytheon Missiles and Defense Company, Tucson, AZ. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require annual trips to Oman involving U.S. Government and contractor representatives for technical reviews, support, and oversight for approximately seven years.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21-35

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The AGM-154 JSOW is used by Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force, and allows aircraft to attack well-defended targets in day, night, and adverse weather conditions. The AGM-154C carries a BROACH warhead. The BROACH warhead incorporates an advanced multi stage warhead. The JSOW uses the Global Positioning System (GPS) Precise Positioning System (PPS), which provides for a more accurate capability than the commercial version of GPS.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Oman can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of Oman.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision

stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY,
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 22-0Q. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 20-09 of March 4, 2020.

Sincerely,

J. AARON HARDING,
for (James A. Hursch, Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-0Q

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(C), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Republic of Poland.
(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 20-09; Date: March 4, 2020; Military Department: Army.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description: On March 4, 2020, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 20-09, of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of one hundred eighty (180) Javelin missiles and seventy-nine (79) Javelin Command Launch Units (CLUs). Also included were Basic Skill Trainers (BST), Missile Simulation Rounds (MSR), Battery Coolant Units (BCU), tool kits, modified 2-level maintenance parts, training, U.S. Government and contractor technical assistance, transportation and other related elements of logistics support. The estimated total cost was \$100 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$75 million of this total.

This transmittal notifies the inclusion of an additional four hundred ninety (490) Javelin missiles; and fifty (50) Javelin Light Weight Command Launch Units (LWCLU) (MDE). These non-MDE items are also included: Javelin LWCLU Basic Skills Trainers; Javelin Outdoor Trainers; Missile Simulation Rounds; System Integration and Check out; Javelin Restricted Interactive Electronic Technical Manual (IETM); Javelin Operator Manual, and Technical Assistance (TAGM); tools; Javelin Gunner Training; Ammunition Technical Officer Training (ATO); and Javelin Maintenance Training. The estimated value of the additional MDE items is \$125 million, and the estimated value of the additional non-MDE items is \$25 million. The revised total estimated MDE value is \$200 million, and the revised total case value is \$250 million.

(iv) Significance: This proposed sale of additional Javelin systems will help Poland build its long-term defense capacity to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity

in order to meet its national defense requirements and improve its interoperability with U.S. and NATO forces.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by improving the security of a NATO ally and partner nation, which is an important force for peace, political stability, and economic progress in Eastern Europe.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The Sensitivity of Technology Statement contained in the original notification applies to items reported here.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: November 2, 2022.

VETERANS DAY

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, our Nation recently celebrated Veterans Day, one of the most sacred days on our national calendar. Across the land, grateful Americans paid tribute to the brave men and women who have defended our freedom throughout our history.

Today, nearly 20 million Americans hold the title of veteran. That includes almost 110,000 men and women in my State of Maine, one of the highest percentages in the country. It is estimated that some 48 million patriots have served in uniform since our Nation's founding. Among them is a very special group of more than 3,500 heroes who have received the Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor in action. Although more than 160 years have passed since the medal's inception, its foundation of courage and sacrifice have remained constant.

More than 100 Mainers have earned the Medal of Honor. In observation of Memorial Day last May, Emily Burnham of the "Bangor Daily News" authored a fascinating story profiling four of them. I am delighted to insert her inspiring story into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and to recap briefly the heroism she described.

Early in the Civil War, fisherman Andrew Tozier enlisted in the 2nd Maine Infantry. He was wounded at the Battle of Gaines Mill in Virginia and captured. After being released by the Confederates, he joined the 20th Maine Infantry Regiment under Lieutenant Colonel Joshua Chamberlain.

At Gettysburg, he was the Regiment's color bearer. During the decisive stand Chamberlain led at Little Round Top, Sergeant Tozier stood at the center of the regiment with the regimental flag tucked in his right elbow while he used the rifle of a wounded member of the color guard to return fire on the attacking Confederates in defense of his comrades.

After the war, Mr. Tozier was adrift and fell into a life of crime, stealing cattle and other property. When he was arrested, Chamberlain, then Governor of Maine, took Mr. Tozier and his wife into his home and helped him turn his life around. In addition, Gov. Chamberlain, a Medal of Honor recipient himself, recommended Andrew Tozier for the medal for his bravery at Little Round Top. Veterans helping fellow veterans remains an American tradition.

Before World War II, Edward Dahlgren worked as a seed potato inspector in Maine's Aroostook County. He enlisted in the Army in 1943 and served with the 36th Infantry Division. On February 11, 1945, in France, Sergeant Dahlgren led the rescue of a unit surrounded by German forces, repeatedly attacking enemy positions alone and capturing nearly 40 prisoners. His Medal of Honor citation credits his "bold leadership and magnificent courage" for repulsing an enemy attack and saving an American platoon from great danger.

Charles Loring of Portland distinguished himself in both World War II and the Korean war. In 1942, he enlisted in the Army Air Forces and flew 55 combat missions as a fighter pilot. In December of 1944, he was shot down over Belgium and spent 6 months as a prisoner of war.

Major Loring returned to combat duty in 1952, flying an F-80 jet fighter in Korea. Leading a patrol on November 22 of that year, he spotted a concentration of enemy artillery that was pinning down UN ground troops. As Loring began his bombing run, his plane was severely damaged by anti-aircraft fire. Rather than abort his mission and leave the ground troops in danger, Loring dove his damaged aircraft into the enemy position. He was killed instantly, but his action resulted in the complete destruction of the threat. When Major Loring's widow was presented the posthumous Medal of Honor by President Eisenhower on May 9, 1954, it was announced that the new Air Force base in Limestone, ME, would bear his name.

Gary Gordon grew up in Lincoln, ME. After graduating from his school in 1978, he enlisted in the Army and later volunteered for the elite Delta Force unit. On October 3, 1993, while serving in a peacekeeping mission in Mogadishu, Somalia, Master Sergeant Gordon and fellow sniper 1SG Sergeant Randy Shughart took action to rescue the crews of two Black Hawk helicopters that had been shot down by Somali gunfire.

Heavily outnumbered and outgunned, Gordon and Shughart fought their way to the first helicopter, pulled the crew from the wreckage, and defended their position until they ran out of ammunition. Both gave their lives defending their fellow soldiers, and both received the Medal of Honor.

Their extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty are immortalized in the book and movie "Black Hawk Down." Last year, I had the privilege to join in the dedication of a memorial to Master Sergeant Gordon in his hometown of Lincoln.

Although separated by many years and theaters of combat, these four share the common bond of uncommon valor. They are powerful reminders that our Nation has been blessed throughout our history by ordinary citizens who possess the character and the strength to do extraordinary things.

Veterans Day is a meaningful observance throughout America. Nowhere did Veterans Day 2022 have more meaning than in the small Maine town of New Vineyard. That is when Army Air Forces Sergeant Zelwood Gravlin returned home for burial 79 years after he perished in the skies over German-controlled Romania during World War II.

Sergeant Gravlin was a gunner on the B-24 Liberator bomber "Four Eyes" that was shot down on August 1, 1943, during Operation Tidal Wave that targeted the Romanian oil refineries that fueled the Nazi war machine. Fifty-one of the 177 B-24s on that harrowing raid did not return.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency began exhuming unknown remains associated with Operation Tidal Wave in 2017. One set of remains, which were first interred in a Romanian cemetery and then at an American Military Cemetery in Belgium, were positively identified as Sergeant Gravlin's in July.

This remarkable event underscores the commitment of the American people that the men and women who serve our country will always be honored and, no matter how many years pass, they will never be forgotten. May God bless our veterans and may God bless America.

I ask unanimous consent that the "Bangor Daily News" story by Emily Burnham be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Bangor Daily News]

THESE 4 MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS FROM MAINE SET THEMSELVES APART WITH THEIR BRAVERY

(By Emily Burnham)

More than 100 Mainers have been awarded the Medal of Honor, the U.S. government's highest honor for military members. Of those Mainers, each one has an amazing story of bravery and valor, each important to know and be inspired by.

These are the stories of four of those courageous Mainers, who distinguished themselves on the battlefield for the sake of their fellow soldiers and their country—and in some cases made the ultimate sacrifice.

ANDREW J. TOZIER

Of the Mainers awarded Medals of Honor for their bravery during the Civil War, few have a post-war story that's nearly as remarkable as the story of their battlefield gallantry, but Andrew Tozier is one such person.

Born in Monmouth, Tozier escaped an abusive father to first become a sailor. At age 23, not long after the Civil War began, he enlisted in the 2nd Maine Infantry Regiment. He was injured and captured at the Battle of Gaines Mill in Virginia in 1862, but after being released by Confederate forces he joined Company I of the 20th Maine in 1863.

At Gettysburg, he was the color bearer for his regiment, and on Little Round Top he defended his fellow soldiers alone, a feat of bravery for which, decades later, his commander, Brig. Gen. Joshua Chamberlain, recommended he be awarded the Medal of Honor—and he was, in 1898, when he was 60.

After the war, Tozier spent nearly five years as a criminal, stealing cattle and other

property in towns across Maine. He had a powerful ally when he was finally arrested: Chamberlain, who by then was Maine's governor. Chamberlain pardoned Tozier, and invited him to live at his house in an effort to get Tozier to clean up his act. Tozier spent the rest of his life working as a fisherman, dairy farmer and factory worker.

Tozier was portrayed by Maine actor Herb Mitchell in the movie "Gettysburg," and his story was told in the song "Ballad of the 20th Maine" by Maine band the Ghost of Paul Revere.

EDWARD DAHLGREN, CARIBOU

Aroostook County native Edward Dahlgren lived most of his life quietly in the town of Blaine, working as a seed potato inspector for the state. But during World War II, he was personally responsible for keeping an American platoon out of danger during an enemy counterattack in Oberhoffen, France, and capturing about 40 German soldiers during the skirmish on Feb. 11, 1945—just a few months before the war ended in Europe.

That action earned him the Medal of Honor, presented to him by President Harry S. Truman. When he was awarded it, he was the only living Maine Medal of Honor winner after the Civil War. Lt. Dahlgren lived in Maine for the rest of his life, and a hall at the former Loring Air Force Base was named for him, as was a street in Caribou. He died in 2006 at age 90.

CHARLES LORING, PORTLAND

Few military members serve in two wars—let alone distinguish themselves in both the way Portland native Charles Loring did. A few years after graduating from Cheverus High School, in 1942, Loring enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Force and received training as a fighter pilot. He would spend the next two years flying missions in both North America and, eventually, on the European front. By December 1944, he'd flown 55 combat missions.

On Dec. 24, 1944, Loring was shot down in Belgium, and spent the next six months as a Nazi prisoner of war. He was liberated three days before the war in Europe ended on May 8, 1945.

Loring's actions that garnered him the Medal of Honor came seven years later when, after years training other pilots, he returned to combat duty in July 1952 as a jet fighter pilot during the Korean War. On Nov. 22 of that year, while leading a flight patrol near the 38th parallel, Loring spotted Chinese artillery that was pinning down American ground troops nearby. The Chinese crews fired on Loring's aircraft and damaged it, but rather than abort the mission, Loring turned off his radio and dive bombed the artillery, eliminating the threat. He died on impact, and his body was never found.

On May 9, 1954, Loring's widow received the Medal of Honor from President Dwight Eisenhower. On the same day, it was announced that the newly built Air Force base in Limestone would be named for him—Loring Air Force Base, which operated until 1994.

GARY GORDON, LINCOLN

Master Sgt. Gary Gordon, a native of Lincoln and graduate of Mattanawcook Academy, joined the Army straight out of high school, eventually joining the elite 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment-Delta, or Delta Force.

In 1993, he was posted as part of a peace-keeping mission in Mogadishu, Somalia, and on Oct. 3 of that year went in with his fellow sniper Randy Shughart to protect the crews of two Black Hawk helicopters that had been shot down by Somali gunfire during the Battle of Mogadishu, made famous by the book and film "Black Hawk Down."

During the battle, Gordon urged his superiors to let him get on the ground to protect the crew of the downed helicopters from Somali soldiers. Shughart and Gordon alone pulled the crew from the helicopters and defended their position until they ran out of ammunition. Both died defending their fellow soldiers.

Gordon and Shughart were awarded the Medal of Honor, the first awardees since the war in Vietnam. Gordon's widow, Carmen, was presented with the medal in 1994 by President Bill Clinton, and in 1996, the USNS *Gordon* was named for him. Last year, a statue of Gordon was unveiled in his hometown of Lincoln, and this year, Maine lawmakers advocated for naming a Maine-built Navy destroyer after him.

VETERANS DAY

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, in 1945, a World War II veteran named Raymond Weeks from Birmingham, AL, recognized the need for a day to honor all veterans. He led the petition to then-Army Chief of Staff Dwight Eisenhower for a national veterans day and organized the first veterans day parade in Birmingham on November 11, 1947.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill officially establishing "Veterans Day." President Eisenhower said, "Let us solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom."

It is fitting that the "Father of Veterans Day" was an Alabamian, symbolizing a longstanding tradition among our residents to recognize and show appreciation for our veterans and service-members. Every year, we continue this tradition of pausing to recognize our veterans—past and present.

Veterans Day reminds us that freedom is a sacred gift, and it is not free. Some endured unthinkable battles and hardships so that we can live in peace. Most have relinquished their autonomy, moving themselves and their families across the country and around the world, with little to no notice, spending holidays and major life events separated from loved ones.

And all joined willing to lay down life and limb for their country. Alabama is home to more than 400,000 of these heroes, and today, I will be recognizing seven of them for their sacrifices to make our country safer. They embody what it means to be a member of our Armed Forces—but also what it means to be an American. Their service did not end when their time in the military did; they are investing in their communities even after taking off their uniforms. Each of them chose to use their experiences to uplift those around them. If you ask them about their heroic actions or how they have contributed to making a difference in others' lives, they will humbly tell you it has been their honor to do so.

I am proud to recognize their military service and the unique ways they are investing in our communities, like SGT Chris Amacker of Slapout, AL, a

gun truck commander in the Army's 465th Transportation Unit, where he moved ammo and equipment during the Iraq war. He faithfully carried out his duty, traveling more miles for his unit than any other driver during his time. His military service was cut short after suffering brain and spinal injuries following an explosive attack on his unit.

Sergeant Amacker spent more than a year in an Arkansas rehabilitation facility, relearning how to walk and talk. But you wouldn't guess that Sergeant Amacker had been through so much from his positive outlook and passion for helping others lead meaningful lives. He considers himself blessed to be alive and doesn't regret his decision to join the Army.

Today, Sergeant Amacker is actively involved in his community and several veterans' organizations, including the American Legion in Middlebrook. He supports other veterans coping with service-connected issues like PTSD by listening to their struggles and connecting them with other veterans to help break down isolation barriers. He also helps them find jobs to ease their transition to civilian life.

Sergeant Amacker is a devoted dad, cheering on his children at soccer games and in the band. He is described by someone in the community as "a one-in-a-million man who will do anything to help anyone, particularly a fellow service person."

There is no more commendable action than using skills learned in the military to help others succeed, like Officer Eric Prewitt from Havana, AL, does, day in and day out. A graduate of Hale County High School, Officer Prewitt enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1992, where he served as a yeoman second class. During his time in the military, he served as administrative support for military officers in assignments, with Active-Duty assignments in Guam, Australia, and the Philippines.

Officer Prewitt felt led to return to west Alabama after his time in the military and use his skills to assist veterans wishing to use their GI Bill benefits. In 2005, he became the Veterans Affairs officer and diversity training liaison at Shelton State Community College in Tuscaloosa, AL.

When speaking about his job, Officer Prewitt shared how the military invested in him and that he wants to continue investing in our servicemembers and veterans. His role is a huge benefit to not just west Alabama but our entire State.

He helps nearly 400 veterans and their dependents annually to get the assistance they need while attending college. Officer Prewitt's efforts have helped increase the veteran student population retention rate and make it possible for them to achieve their educational goals. Additionally, his office leads his community in making sure veterans do not feel alone or forgotten, including participating in "Operation We Remember" to raise awareness about veteran suicide.

Some servicemembers were not well received upon their return to American soil. They fought a thankless war without feeling supported, but still fought out of devotion for their country. This was the case for combat LTC Jeff Wishik of Madison, AL. Born in Montgomery, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army through Marion Military Institute's early commissioning program.

He deployed to Vietnam with the 101st Airborne Division, directed to find and engage enemy forces. In one particularly intense engagement with the North Vietnamese, Wishik charged through an onslaught of bullets to take command of the injured front element and order the wounded troops to safety. His quick action and leadership allowed the unit to move the wounded out of the conflict zone.

While scouting for a landing zone for a helicopter to evacuate them, Lieutenant Wishik was struck by numerous enemy attacks, including one explosion that blew him into the air, knocked him unconscious, and killed all but three in his scouting group.

After he and the two other soldiers realized they were outnumbered and unable to turn back, they spent the night pretending to be dead to avoid being captured by the enemy. He recalls enemy troops walking within inches of them and unknowingly stepping on them as they tried to remain quiet despite their serious injuries.

During the night, a North Vietnamese soldier discovered Lieutenant Wishik, looking for his food rations. Lieutenant Wishik used his last bit of strength to take out the enemy before passing out again, saving himself and the remaining two soldiers from his scouting group. He spent time recovering in multiple medical facilities before returning to Vietnam as a pilot for a second combat tour.

He received many awards for his courageous actions, including the Distinguished Service Cross, Bronze Medal, and a Purple Heart. He went to work for Lockheed Martin for 24 years following his retirement from the military in 1988 and has devoted his time throughout the years volunteering in various organizations, including the Semper Fi Community Task Force of North Alabama and as compliance lead in support of Madison County's Veterans Court.

Lieutenant Wishik's wise reminder to Americans based on his experience is that, "You may not agree with the politics of the country, but you don't take it out on American servicemembers."

The call to serve may "run in the family," where, for some veterans, the lessons and values learned in military service are worth passing on generation to generation. This is the case for SGT Janet Pray of Geneva, AL, who served in the U.S. Army from 1989–2003.

Sergeant Pray grew up in a military family, and after graduating from Alabama State University with a degree in social work, she decided to enlist. Her

first assignment was in Germany, driving a 5-ton truck back and forth from the airfield to refuel aircraft.

Upon returning to the States, the Army selected Sergeant Pray for a professional leadership development course. For a while, she moved around, serving at Fort Campbell and Fort Hood before being sent to Korea, reaching the rank of staff sergeant. Her final tour of duty was in Germany during the Iraq war, where she prepared her unit for deployment as part of the 19th Support Group.

After retiring from the Army, Sergeant Pray continued supporting the Department of Defense in various roles, including as an administrative assistant at Ft. Rucker. Her love for education and empowering the next generation prompted her to become a substitute teacher and aide for the Geneva City Schools System.

Her encouragement and tenacious spirit has touched the lives of countless students and teachers. Though she retired from teaching earlier this year, Sergeant Pray's influence lives on in her four grandchildren. One of her grandsons is currently on track to become an officer in the military after he graduates college. Sergeant Pray says the military taught her to lead by example and be responsible for her own actions—lessons she continues to pass on. People like Sergeant Pray keep the American dream alive by inspiring others to take advantage of opportunities our country has to offer and leading by example.

For veterans like 100-year-old George Hamilton of Pleasant Grove, the idea of "service" has no age limit. The World War II Navy veteran participates in different events around Jefferson County to share his story and is active in his local congregation at Bethel Baptist Church. Mission work is a huge part of his life. He has been on 11 trips to Nicaragua and is planning to go again soon.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, then-19-year-old Mr. Hamilton chose to enlist in the Navy. He served as a radarman second class aboard the USS *King*, helping protect the west coast and the North Pacific around the Aleutian Islands.

Mr. Hamilton says his only regret about his time with the Navy is not signing up sooner. He reflects fondly on his service, but also on how united Americans were during World War II, with a huge desire to do whatever was necessary to defeat our common enemy and defend our way of life. Mr. Hamilton continues to remind us of our country's potential when we are united, saying, "If we could get that feeling back in our country today, we could get out of this situation we're in without fail."

Many heroes gave our country some of the best years of their lives so that we could freely enjoy ours. One such hero is SGT Lonnie Phillips of Pell City, AL. The two-time Purple Heart recipient left home when he was just 17

years old to join the Marines, serving in the Vietnam war for 1 year and 11 months.

During his time in Vietnam, Sergeant Phillips survived two attacks but sustained life-changing injuries. He tearfully recalled losing most of his buddies when his unit came under gunfire while patrolling through a rice field. Sergeant Phillips woke up in the back of a medical vehicle with multiple injuries, including a severe blow to his left leg that required the removal of most of his calf. Decades later, he still has shrapnel in his hip, a painful reminder of the cost of freedom.

Sergeant Phillips says he doesn't regret his service because he hopes it will keep today's youth from facing the same hardship. He gives his time in the military credit for teaching him discipline and the sacred value of life.

Now, Sergeant Phillips takes pride in raising honeybees and growing fresh produce for the St. Clair County community. But he doesn't see himself as a hero—just a man who did what his country asked of him during a difficult point in history. His humility and devotion are an inspiration to us all.

The sacrifices made by our servicemembers are often overlooked or taken for granted by those of us who benefit from them. Even during the Korean war, often referred to as the "Forgotten War," there were men and women who willingly answered the call to serve—not for fame or recognition, but to keep our country safe from evil, like Sergeant Dave Jensen of Foley, who enlisted in the U.S. Air Force at 19 years old.

His job was to help assess aerial photography used for enemy surveillance. His first overseas assignment was in North Africa supporting those who flew along the Russian lines before doing stints in Alaska, Hawaii, and Guam. After honorably discharging, Sergeant Jensen made another commendable decision to enter public education, teaching the art of woodworking and mechanics during his 30 years as a shop instructor. Sergeant Jensen is an example of someone who knew the importance of his role to the overall mission and honorably carried out his part.

These veterans—Chris Amacker, Eric Prewitt, Jeff Wishik, Janet Pray, George Hamilton, Lonnie Phillips, and Dave Jensen—are all heroes. Our country is safer because of their efforts, and Alabama's communities are better off because of their service and continued service. Their sacrifices—whether loss of mobility, time spent away from family, postwar trauma, or the most vibrant years of their youth—demonstrate America's strength to the world. President Ronald Reagan summed it up best when he said, "Veterans know better than anyone else the price of freedom, for they've suffered the scars of war. We can offer them no better tribute than to protect what they have won for us."

I hope we will remember the price of freedom and those who have paid it. To

all of our veterans, thank you for your sacrifice and endeavors to ensure America remains the country of freedom and opportunity for generations to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING LORETTA LYNN

• Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, over the years, country music has evolved from its humble roots into a celebration of extremes. Most modern artists like to draw their listeners into one of two states: perfect happiness or pure agony. But country music's legacy lies somewhere in the middle, where life tests our mettle and deals both joy and sorrow, all too often in unequal measure. It is the realm of the courageously unlucky and the quietly brokenhearted and the source of the world's most complex and affecting storytelling. It is that world that Loretta Lynn invited us to experience from the time she was a young woman until the day she died.

Her resume is one of the most impressive in all entertainment: 46 solo studio albums, more than 50 Top Ten hits, member of the Grand Ole Opry, Country Music Hall of Famer, and the Country Music Association's first female Entertainer of the Year. But Loretta was much more than the sum of her accolades.

She grew up poor and uneducated in the coal-mining hills of Kentucky. She was a wife at 15, a mother at 16, and moved thousands of miles away from home at an age when most teenagers today would just start dreaming about escaping from their parents. When she wasn't busy raising her children, she sang and played songs on a \$17 Sears guitar.

If Nashville is a 10-year town, then I suppose Loretta Lynn must have considered herself lucky at last, she only had to wait 7 months from the time of her first record pressing to the moment she first stepped onstage at the Grand Ole Opry. Still, at 28, she had seen more than enough to know that there was no hiding in a spotlight, so she sang about her life and found a voice that was once assertive and disruptive. She blazed trails in music and television by being herself, using humor to blunt the edge that hard living and having little agency well into womanhood had given her writing.

On October 4 of this year, we lost our coal miner's daughter to a far better place. I will be forever grateful to her for her absolute belief in the power of storytelling. I hope her memory will inspire future generations of young women in music to do the bravest thing an artist can do and share their joy, pain, confusion, and hope in its most authentic form.●

TRIBUTE TO RUTH SKIDMORE

• Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and Mr. HAGERTY, I

ask unanimous consent that the following remarks be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to honor Ms. Ruth Skidmore of Oak Ridge, TN.

By the end of the Second World War, there were almost 30,000 Army nurses on Active Duty. These brave healers served on the home front and across oceans, caring for the wounded, and bringing hope to thousands of American and Allied servicemembers.

On November 2, 1943, a young lady named Ruth Skidmore joined their ranks and helped guide her compatriots on the frontlines through one of the darkest and most violent periods in American history. On October 13, 2022, Ruth celebrated her 100th birthday, and it felt appropriate that we should in turn celebrate not only her service to this country but her enduring legacy of service to her community.

Ruth Skidmore was born 100 years ago in Fort Wayne, IN, the sixth of seven children. She held an afterschool job at the one-room schoolhouse across the street from her home, cleaning chalkboards and erasers for 10 cents a day. Following her father's advice, Ruth deposited her earnings in a savings account—a responsible decision indeed. Unfortunately, she lost all \$13 of her savings in the crash of '29.

To this day, Ruth is still mad at Herbert Hoover.

She is a graduate of Hanover College, where she was crowned May Queen in her senior year. After college, Ruth contracted an eye infection and moved in with her uncle, who was an Army doctor. He suggested that she move to Arizona, believing that the dry air would aid in her healing. As it turns out, this piece of advice would change the course of Ruth's life. She moved to Tucson and signed up for Army Cadet School. The war was on, and everyone had a role to play. After the war Ruth moved to Oak Ridge, TN; after a short stint in Fort Lauderdale, FL, she returned to the Volunteer State to work as an industrial nurse at the Y-12 National Security Complex.

Over the years Ruth took on the duties of a wife and a mother, but she never stopped serving her community. While raising her family, Ruth worked part-time as a nurse and especially enjoyed her 2 years working in Appalachia.

Today, Ruth lives in Oak Ridge, where she indulges her green thumb and a love of music. She has always had a large garden and, as she puts it, was growing organic vegetables before it was cool. At the age of 60, Ruth threw herself into music lessons and developed no small talent on both the guitar and the piano. She regularly dazzles her friends and neighbors as part of a veterans' band.

Ruth, what a life you have lived. On behalf of all Tennesseans and our colleagues in the U.S. Senate, we wish you a very happy birthday and as much joy and love as one person could hope for in the coming year.●

RECOGNIZING KAPPA SIGMA UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS CHAPTER

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to mark 132 years of Kappa Sigma fraternity on the campus of the University of Arkansas and 100 years calling 711 W. Dickson Street its home. I join with so many other former and current members of the storied Xi Chapter in celebrating its tremendous legacy of brotherhood, academic achievement, and service.

The Kappa Sigma Xi Chapter was established in 1890 and is the largest fraternity on campus. The chapter is also the largest in the country, with over 4,000 initiates all-time and 335 undergraduates currently. It features prominent alumni, including notable figures such as Jerry Jones and former public servants who have served their communities, the State of Arkansas, and our country.

I am fortunate to be among several Kappa Sigma brothers to represent the people of Arkansas in the U.S. Congress. It is an honor to follow in the footsteps of William S. Goodwin of Warren, John McClellan from Sheridan, William Alexander from Osceola, and Ed Bethune of Little Rock, as well as Samuel B. Hill from Franklin who went on to serve the people of Washington State. Our time in the Xi Chapter undoubtedly shaped our desire to serve as leaders and give back through public service.

Being part of this organization is also a family affair, as my great uncle and cousin were members of Kappa Sigma's Xi Chapter. I know families throughout Arkansas have similar stories, which speaks to the broad and generational impact it continues to have in the natural State.

As former Senator and Republican Presidential nominee Bob Dole once expressed, being involved with Kappa Sigma offers a great deal of learning experience and the opportunity to make lifelong friends.

I am pleased and honored to help celebrate this milestone with other Kappa Sigma brothers and the city of Fayetteville. Reflecting on the history and tradition of this special brotherhood is just one way to carry on its mission.

Along with the University of Arkansas Greek Life community, and specifically to the Xi Chapter of Kappa Sigma, we applaud the longevity and life-changing work the fraternity continues to demonstrate.

Congratulations, again, to all those associated with this institution and who are connected through the bond it has established for well over a century.●

TRIBUTE TO DAN AND SANDI DAVIS

• Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, today I honor and pay tribute to Dan and Sandi Davis. The Davis' have selflessly dedicated more than 40 years of their

life to ministry through the United Pentecostal Church. In October of 2022, the Davis' celebrate 20 years of pastoral stewardship at First Pentecostal Church in Baton Rouge, LA.

Dan and Sandi met while attending college at Jackson College of Ministries, in Jackson, MS, and married in 1977. Pastor Davis became a licensed minister by the United Pentecostal Church International in 1976 and served in a number of ministerial positions at churches in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Michigan.

In 1989, the Davis' moved their family to Jena, LA, to lead the Shady Grove United Pentecostal Church. In 2002, after 13 years at Shady Grove, Dan and Sandi moved to Baton Rouge to begin their ministry at First Pentecostal Church of Baton Rouge. There, they have since faithfully served the congregation of First Pentecostal Church and the Baton Rouge community.

I met Dan when I was running for my first political office. He didn't know me from Adam. But from the get-go he was encouraging me, as he encourages everyone. I met Sandi through Dan and through them met others such as Bishop Tenney and his "Tennyisms." We have had great conversations regarding music and life. They regularly send notes, text messages, and messages through others to pick up my spirits. They do this for me; they do it for everyone. It is the ministry they have had for 40 years.

Joining the First Pentecostal celebrating these 40 years of ministry are Dan and Sandi's two daughters, Mandi Davis Hartzell and Heather Davis Dean; two sons-in-law, Ryan Hartzell and Chantry Dean; and three grandchildren; Ava Dean, Aidan Hartzell, and Zane Hartzell.

It is truly an honor and a privilege to commemorate the Davis' 20 years of ministry at First Pentecostal Church in Baton Rouge. I am blessed to have them as friends.●

TRIBUTE TO STEVEN FIORE

• Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize Steven Fiore of Atkinson as October's Granite Stater of the Month. This Halloween, 17-year-old Steven set up an elaborate haunted house to raise money for the Alzheimer's Association in honor of his late grandmother.

A Halloween enthusiast from a young age, Steven has collected various Halloween props, from fog machines to animated creatures, over the years. His grandmother, who he was close with, was one of the main contributors to the collection and would gift him props for Christmas.

After Steven's grandmother passed away from Alzheimer's in 2021, he decided to honor her memory by bringing his passion project to life. Utilizing his props and decorations, Steven set up a hair-raising haunted house for the weekends of October 21 and 28, with proceeds going to the Alzheimer's Association.

I especially admire Steven's creativity and drive in setting up a haunted house that has also brought together the Atkinson community and am glad that more guests will experience the thrills of the haunted house. By taking a difficult situation—experiencing the loss of his grandmother—and turning it into a positive force for helping others, by raising money for the Alzheimer's Association, Steven exemplifies the Granite State spirit, and I am proud to recognize his efforts.●

TRIBUTE TO DIANE PORTNOY

• Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, today I recognize Ms. Diane Portnoy, a renowned educator, advocate, author, and CEO and founder of the Immigrant Learning Center in Malden, MA. As the Immigrant Learning Center celebrates its 30th anniversary, I am honored to acknowledge Ms. Portnoy's extraordinary work.

As the founder and CEO of the Immigrant Learning Center, a nonprofit organization located in Malden, MA, Ms. Portnoy has spent the last three decades supporting the educational goals of thousands of immigrants from more than 122 countries. Under Ms. Portnoy's leadership, the organization has worked to draw attention to the many plights that immigrants and refugees face and has helped to amplify their voices.

Ms. Portnoy's own personal experience as an immigrant inspired her to start the Immigrant Learning Center. She came to the United States as the daughter of Polish Holocaust survivors and witnessed firsthand the many challenges immigrant families face when adjusting to life in the United States.

She began her career in education, receiving her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Boston University, followed by a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Cornell University. Since the founding of the Immigrant Learning Center, local and national groups have recognized Ms. Portnoy as both a leader and advocate for the many immigrants in Massachusetts. Her dedication, passion, and endless resolve has helped shape the Immigrant Learning Center into an organization that provides immigrants and refugees with scholastic resources, ensures that adults have access to free English language classes, disseminates educational information about immigration, and conducts essential research on the contributions of immigrants to the U.S. economy.

I am honored to take this opportunity to recognize Ms. Portnoy for her tremendous achievements. She has touched many lives, and her work at the Immigrant Learning Center will continue to have a lasting impact on individuals across Massachusetts and beyond. So, on this 30th anniversary of the Immigrant Learning Center, we thank her for her service to her community, the Commonwealth, and the country.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN R. CYR

• Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize Mr. John R. Cyr, the inaugural recipient of the NCRPC's Lifetime Public Service Award.

The North Central Regional Planning Commission—NCRPC—was formed in 1972 following the establishment of planning and development districts through executive order of the Governor of Kansas. The NCRPC serves 12 rural counties in Kansas, with the mission of advancing rural Kansas through comprehensive planning and development services. In 1980, the U.S. Economic Development Administration designated the NCRPC as an Economic Development District—EDD—which established the commission as the regional leader in economic and community development.

In 2022, the NCRPC established its Lifetime Public Service Award, to be presented to John R. Cyr on November 10, 2022. Mr. Cyr has not only been instrumental in the founding and growth of the NCRPC, but has been a leader in regional planning, economic development, and rural community revitalization. Henceforth, this award will be presented annually to distinguished rural central Kansans who most exemplify the lifetime commitment to strengthening our rural communities.

The establishment of this prestigious award, and the recognition of Mr. Cyr as its inaugural recipient will serve not just as an ongoing tribute to those that have given so much to better their communities but also as an inspiration to people of all ages to public service and strengthening our rural communities.

I now ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. John R. Cyr for a lifetime of public service, as well as honoring his work to advance rural communities in Kansas.●

TRIBUTE TO JULIE SCOTT

• Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize Ms. Julie Scott of Sedgwick, KS.

Julie is one of nine principals receiving the Terrel H. Bell Award for Outstanding School Leadership for 2022. She is the principal of R.L. Wright Elementary School and is to be honored during the National Blue Ribbon Schools Awards Ceremony on Thursday, November 3, 2022.

During her 4 years as principal of R.L. Wright, Ms. Scott has made it her mission to make the school a safe learning environment for all students, where everyone feels a sense of community. Through her outstanding leadership, the school has launched several programs to help achieve these goals.

To promote early learning, she created the school's full-day Cardinal Kids Pre-K Program. Ms. Scott also launched Cardinal Connect, an after-school program for students, and Cardinal Boost, a tutoring program focus-

ing on improving students' reading and math skills. Julie values the opinions of her students and works to incorporate them into bettering the school. To help accomplish this, she introduced the principal advisory team, which brings fourth, fifth, and sixth graders together to provide their input on school improvements.

Ms. Scott also led the creation of the school's family activity building. This program encourages a strong community by bringing students from different grade levels together for monthly bonding activities. Each group is led by an R.L. Wright faculty member, providing students with a consistent adult contact throughout their time in elementary school. Julie also introduced a "community build day" when the school received new playground equipment. Members of the Sedgwick community came together to help with the installation of the equipment.

She also strives to make the best environment possible for others at the school. Julie introduced R.L. Wright's Morning Community, where the entire school comes together to say the Pledge of Allegiance and listen to daily announcements. Julie formed collaborative teams with the introduction of Professional Learning Community times. These collaborations are designed to build team spirit and connection with the community. She launched a learning community for paraprofessionals, providing them with additional training and support in monthly meetings.

Julie's passion for her students and the additions she's brought to R.L. Wright are a shining example for educators everywhere. She is more than deserving of this award. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the wonderful impact Ms. Julie Scott has had on the Sedgwick community and to honor her for her dedication to serving the students of R.L. Wright Elementary School.●

RECOGNIZING THE 4-H ALL-STAR MEAT JUDGING TEAM

• Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize the Kansas 4-H all-star meat judging team.

The Kansas 4-H all-star team won the national championship at the 2022 4-H meat judging contest championship. The exceptional work ethic and dedication of the Kansas 4-H all-star team led to the first ever national title for a Kansas team since the contest started in 1970.

To be selected for the all-star team, students must have excellent evaluation, as well as strong decision-making skills and outstanding oral communication. This team of Kansans have dedicated significant amounts of time to studying and preparing for the championship, working with their coaches and studying independently leading up to the contest.

The team placed first in several categories, including retail cut judging,

retail cut identification, oral reasons, and overall judging. They also placed second in pork judging and beef judging. Their efforts are a great illustration of the dedication and hard work seen across the Kansas agriculture community.

A strong agricultural industry is not only important to the State of Kansas, but also to our country. That is why it is so encouraging to see young people throughout Kansas that are so committed to advancing the agricultural industry and proudly representing the next generation of Kansas farmers.

I now ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Kansas 4-H all-star meat judging team for their exceptional work and their efforts in bringing the first meat judging national title to the great State of Kansas.●

REMEMBERING DIDAR SINGH BAINS

• Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to recognize Didar Singh Bains, a community leader in California, who passed away on September 13, 2022, at the age of 84.

Didar embodied the pioneer spirit of the Golden State. He left a small village in his native Punjab, India, for America with almost no money to his name. Didar found agricultural work in the Imperial Valley before eventually working his way to Yuba City in the northern part of the State.

Through hard work he tapped into California's fertile soils and rich agricultural bounty to build a farming empire that spanned California, Washington, and British Columbia. His particular gift for cultivating peaches earned him the moniker of "Peach King."

But Didar was much more than a farmer; he was a philanthropist, a pillar of his community, and a beacon of hope for Sikh immigrants across the country who were often fleeing violence in search of a better life.

A man of great faith, Didar raised money to build a Sikh temple in Yuba City, and he became the youngest president of the Stockton Gurdwara Sikh temple in 1965. He also founded the World Sikh Organization in 1984, which has donated millions of dollars to philanthropic causes around the world. After Sikhs became targets of discrimination and violence following the September 11 terror attacks, he worked with community leaders to meet with President George W. Bush in hopes of educating the Nation on the Sikh community.

The nearly 100,000 Sikh Americans who travel from across the country each year to Yuba City's annual Nagar Kirtan festival have Didar Singh Bains to thank. Didar was a champion for Yuba City and the surrounding region. His legacy is felt to this day by the businesses that now line the largely rural area. It can be seen in the political gains for Sikh Americans, exemplified by his nephew winning mayoral office in 2009 and becoming the first Sikh

American elected to lead a city in United States history. And it can be told by the countless number of immigrants whom he helped achieve the American dream.

My deepest condolences to his family, community, and Sikh Americans everywhere.●

REMEMBERING CARMEN RAMIREZ

● Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the life of Carmen Ramirez, a relentless advocate for Oxnard, CA; a champion for the environment; and a dear friend to so many.

Born in Oklahoma—but a true daughter of California—Carmen grew up in the community of Pico Rivera in Los Angeles County. She attended the University of San Francisco and California State University, Los Angeles, before graduating from Loyola Law School.

Her passion for improving the lives of others eventually brought her to Oxnard. Beginning in 1978, Carmen served as a legal aid attorney working to represent low-income Californians of La Colonia. Among her many legal and professional accomplishments, she later served as president of the Ventura County Bar, president of the Women Lawyers of Ventura County, a trustee for The Colleges of Law for Santa Barbara and Ventura, a member of the board of governors for the California State Bar, and a member of the executive committee of the California Bench Bar.

But what drew Carmen into public service was her passion for the environment. In 2007, she joined the fight to oppose a liquefied natural gas project proposed near the beaches of Oxnard, and she fought successfully to protect her community. She would go on to become a staunch advocate in our fight against the climate crisis and to promote renewable energy, always leading with kindness, compassion, and composure.

She was elected to the Oxnard City Council for 10 years, where she served for 8 years as Mayor pro tem, promoting the causes of social and environmental justice. She went on to serve as the first Latina on the Ventura County Board of Supervisors in 2020.

Carmen cared deeply about her community. And in turn, her community cared deeply about her. Just ask one of the hundreds of Californians who crowded Plaza Park to pay tribute at her vigil. Remembered that day in tearful embraces, cutting through the sounds of the mariachi, and echoed in shouts of “Viva Carmen Ramirez!” we can see the lasting memory she leaves behind.

While she was taken too soon from family, friends, and her community, we will always have the example she set—defined by moral leadership and a fundamental care for others—to follow.

“Viva Carmen Ramirez.”

Oxnard, Ventura County, and all of California mourns her loss.●

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP CHARLES E. BLAKE, SR.

● Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr., on a lifetime of service to his community and a career of caring for others.

Bishop Blake has served as pastor of the West Angeles Church of God in Christ for 53 years—53 years as a pillar of Crenshaw and South Los Angeles.

While it may be hard to believe, there was a time before the name Blake was synonymous with Crenshaw. Charles E. Blake, Sr., was born in Little Rock, AR, into a family of faith. His father was a preacher and well-respected leader in the Pentecostal faith. Both Charles and his brother, J.A., would go on to preach in the Church of God in Christ.

After his family moved to California and notably after his first sermon at the age of 16, he attended California Western University and subsequently earned his master's degree at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta. It was there—as student body president, surrounded by Black students and faculty, and as a leader of student civil rights marches in Selma and Montgomery—where he began to see the strength of Black community power.

In 1969, he became senior pastor of West Angeles Church, where his powerful sermons from a pulpit in South Los Angeles grew his congregation rapidly and brought together the community. By 1999, what had once been a 300-person church on 5th Avenue and Adams Boulevard had grown to require the construction of the ornate, 5,000-seat West Angeles Cathedral.

Bishop Blake's unwavering faith and exalted message of devotion earned his election as presiding bishop of the Church of God in Christ four times, representing millions of worshippers around the globe. It also led to his appointment by President Obama to the Inaugural Advisory Council on Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships.

But to countless families in South Los Angeles, whether attending a Sunday service or watching the Crenshaw corridor grow around them, his commitment to his community is what is most memorable. Over his decades of leadership, he brought to Crenshaw affordable housing, a performing arts theater, and a K-12 school; encouraged economic growth and businesses that provided jobs to Angelenos; created programs to lift up Black men with educational and financial literacy resources; and secured invaluable attention and resources for neighborhoods in South Los Angeles.

He invested in the Crenshaw corridor when it needed it most, and we thank him for his faith and service.

All of California wishes him and his wife, Lady Mae L. Blake, well in retire-

ment, and we wish his son, Charles E. Blake II, luck in his new role as senior pastor.●

TRIBUTE TO FATHER GREGORY JOSEPH BOYLE, S.J.

● Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Father Greg Boyle on 50 years of service as a Jesuit priest and as a compassionate leader for families in East Los Angeles.

For over three decades, Father Boyle has served as founder and director of Homeboy Industries, the largest gang rehabilitation and re-entry program in the world. Based in Los Angeles, Homeboy provides an off-ramp for thousands of former gang members and at-risk youth.

Born in Los Angeles in 1954, Father Boyle first joined the Society of Jesus in 1972. After being ordained as a priest in 1984, he went on to serve Dolores Mission Church in Boyle Heights, where he saw the severity of poverty and violence in Los Angeles that condemned generations of Angelenos to hardship, incarceration, and—all too often—the loss of loved ones.

But he didn't shy from the dangers before him or ignore a community in need of care. Guided by the tenets of his faith—of nonviolence, of love, of care for others—he brought together his parish and community leaders to found what would later become Homeboy Industries. At its start, the organization focused on providing educational resources and employment services.

It would soon grow into a haven for hope for thousands of people in East Los Angeles, throughout the region, and beyond. Through Homeboy Bakery, Homeboy Diner, Homeboy Merchandise, and more, hundreds of people find job training and a reason to get up and get better each and every day. And once inside their doors, surrounded by people who have been through similar challenges, Angelenos are provided support for substance abuse, mental health services, and legal and educational resources.

Each month, Homeboy Industries also provides free tattoo removal services for nearly a thousand Californians to remove gang-related tattoos, removing a common barrier to finding work, and providing safety from visible signs of gang affiliation.

Father Boyle has lived his faith through action. Over five decades of service, he has believed in the goodness inherent in each of us. He has had the compassion to give second chances when others wouldn't. And for those who needed a little light, true to his Jesuit mission, he has the persistence to “go forth and set the work aflame.”

In the “lethal absence of hope,” as he describes it, Father Boyle has brought love, understanding, and a bright future to thousands of Angelenos, and we are grateful for his service.●

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARAB COMMUNITY CENTER FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SERVICES

• Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services located in the heart of Dearborn, MI. Created in 1971 out of a storefront on the impoverished south end of Dearborn, ACCESS has been engaging and building a community to empower individuals, families, and community members ever since. What began with a modest, volunteer-run effort to support the growing immigrant population has blossomed into the largest Arab American community nonprofit in the United States. ACCESS has been integral in assisting the growing Arab population as they adapt to life in the United States. By uplifting and advocating for real and meaningful change, they have become committed to safeguarding the engagement of Arab Americans throughout Michigan.

Fittingly, the mission of ACCESS is "To empower communities to improve their health and their economic, social, and cultural well-being." Spread throughout metro Detroit, ACCESS has 10 locations that provide more than 120 different programs/services to the community; they provide educational opportunities for youth including the Arab American Youth Leadership course, in which they support and foster the identity of the Arab American youth, as well as their 21st Century Community Learning Centers, which provide academic support during the school year and enrichment in the summer. Children are exposed to topics that focus on their identity and culture, as well as help build their advocacy, leadership, and civic engagement skills through youth empowerment to encourage community involvement.

In addition to youth services, ACCESS also offers a large variety of services to adults, especially recent immigrants. ACCESS provides subsidized immigration services to the community, as well as many free services addressing the community's basic needs, such as tax assistance, legal services, and assistance with public benefits programs. They also provide life skills training to settling families via their Center for Working Families, including financial coaching, workforce development, and skill-building. Most profoundly, ACCESS provides affordable healthcare through two community health and research centers—a fully integrated community health "one-stop service center" that is comprised of medical, public health and research programs, as well as mental and behavioral health programs.

While mainly focused on direct assistance to individuals, ACCESS also works to preserve the Arab American history and cultural identity through national programs such as the National Network for Arab American Communities, the Center for Arab American Philanthropy, and most notably, the

Arab American National Museum, founded in 2005; the museum is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institute and is the Nation's only cultural institution devoted solely to document, preserve, and present the history, culture, and contributions of Arab Americans.

ACCESS has impacted countless lives throughout the course of 50 years. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing ACCESS for their tireless advocacy and support of the Arab American community, both in Michigan and nationwide. I wish ACCESS continued growth and prosperity in the years ahead.●

120TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROYAL OAK WOMEN'S CLUB

• Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 120th anniversary of the Royal Oak Women's Club. For over 120 years, the Royal Oak Women's Club—ROWC—members have come together for the purpose of society and service within the Royal Oak community.

On the evening of November 8, 1902, 14 local Royal Oak women gathered together in the parlor of Mrs. Frances Lathrup Martin, for the purpose of creating a study club. It was Mrs. Martin herself that became the first president of the newly formed club. At the time of its founding, the club's mission included the expansion of opportunities for local women, pursuit of issues such as pediatric health and safety, and the promotion of general well-being within the Royal Oak community.

Over the years, as the ROWC expanded its presence in the area by joining larger regional organizations such as the General Federation of Women's Clubs—GFWC—the Michigan Federation of Women's Clubs—GFWC MI—Detroit Federation of Women's Clubs, and the Oakland County Federation of Women's Clubs. The club also transformed to become increasingly civic-minded, with efforts including local advocacy campaigns that resulted in better safety and sanitary equipment within Royal Oak's local public schools.

One-hundred and twenty years later the club has continued to expand and evolve, and now boasts a membership of over 120 persons, who dedicate their time toward the pursuit of community projects that promote good citizenship, civism, and quality education. The ROWC continues to hold a place of high esteem and local importance to the city, with many community groups and organizations using group's clubhouse as a location to hold meetings and events. The clubhouse itself holds significance, for both club and community. The structure, purchased by the ROWC in the 1920s, was even then one of the oldest buildings in the city. Originally a Baptist church constructed in 1839, the building has been relocated and restored as necessary for its preservation and continued use, but continues to exhibit many original fea-

tures. Upkeep of this structure, which was designated in 1979 as a Michigan Registered Historical Site, 1999 a Royal Oak Historic District, and is known today as the city's oldest building, remains among the club member's highest charges.

The Royal Oak Women's club continues to make a difference today through their philanthropic efforts, as well as by providing the women of Royal Oak with a space they may gather, exchange ideas and knowledge, and pursue the "high ideals" envisioned by the club's original members. Their efforts to support the community continue as well; the club provides financial support to the neonatal unit at Beaumont Hospital, the Royal Oak Library, Haven of Oakland County, the Boys and Girls Club for Southeast Michigan, and the South Oakland Shelter to name just a few of their initiatives. Members of the ROWC also volunteer their time to support the annual Royal Oak Community Awards banquet, the community service luncheon, and the annual Salvation Army Toy Luncheon, in addition to supporting the all-night graduation parties for the three local high schools.

The Royal Oak Women's Club has been an integral part of the Royal Oak community and the overall community of southeast Michigan for more than 120 years. As a Michigander and a resident of Oakland County, I am honored to ask my colleagues in joining me in celebrating this significant milestone for the Royal Oak Women's Club, its members, and the entire city of Royal Oak. I wish the Royal Oak Women's Club continued growth and prosperity in the years ahead.●

REMEMBERING ADA MARKITA FISHER

• Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I rise today to remember a friend and a great North Carolinian, Ada Markita Fisher, who unexpectedly died on October 7, 2022. Ada was 74 years old and only a few weeks away from her 75th birthday.

As a young African-American woman, she was a trailblazer. After completing a degree in biology at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro—UNCG—she went on to become the first Black female to earn a medical degree at the University of Wisconsin's School of Medicine and Public Health. She was also the first Black UNCG alumna to complete a medical degree. Additionally, she completed her masters in public health at Johns Hopkins University's School of Hygiene and Public Health in 1981.

After completing her medical degree, Ada chose to return to North Carolina to provide medical care to an underserved community and lead programs for victims of substance abuse. She spent some of her career in the private sector, but most of her life was dedicated to helping people who were struggling and ultimately making a positive difference in her community.

I met Ada 15 years ago when I began my political service in the North Carolina General Assembly. From the first time I met her, I was inspired by her courage, focus, and plain talk. She was a lifelong Republican. She was dedicated to the party of Abraham Lincoln, and she did not hesitate to challenge anyone from across the political spectrum who threatened the principles of personal liberty, individual responsibility, and social justice.

Although I met Ada after she retired, she never seemed to slow down. She traveled across the State advocating for common sense “prescriptions” to the challenges we faced. She became the first African-American to be elected Republican National Committee—RNC—committeewoman for North Carolina. Ada was known for her letters. Some were focused on policies she was promoting, and others were focused on challenging policies she did not think were helpful. Whether or not you agreed with her opinion, you had to respect the thoughtfulness and the work she put into them.

When Ada wasn't working on public policy, she was focused on her family. Ada never married, but she adopted two sons who blessed her with two grandchildren. She also had three siblings and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins. She adored her family, and they adored her.

I attended Ada's funeral last month, and I was honored to speak at her memorial service. While I was considering what I should say, it occurred to me that I had never written a letter to Ada, so I decided to write a letter to her and deliver it at the memorial. I wished that I had sent it long before her passing, but I hope she enjoys it nonetheless as she reads it in heaven.

Dear Ada, I'm sorry I am just now sending you this letter, but I hope it finds you well in the Kingdom of Heaven. I regret that I haven't had the opportunity to see you recently, but I am glad that my last memory of you was giving you a hug when we were together. Had I known it was to be the last time I would see you, I would have hugged you a little longer.

After I received the sad news of your passing, I reflected on the times we spent together, and it gave me some comfort as I grieved your loss. I knew you as a staunch advocate for people who are struggling, for diversity, for personal responsibility, and for individual freedom. I remember so many times when you challenged a crowd to think differently. You didn't look for applause lines, you looked for opportunities to make a point and to make a difference. You didn't hesitate to get people out of their comfort zone by saying what needed to be said, and you gained many followers and admirers along the way.

I am embarrassed to admit that I only knew a small part of your work since the time we met 15 years ago, and I did not fully comprehend your life's work with helping others. I've studied

you more since your passing Ada, and you are truly even more remarkable than I imagined.

As a young African American woman, you excelled in academics—a medical degree and a master's degree in public health. You could have taken a life-long path to personal enrichment, but you chose to return home to North Carolina to set up a rural health clinic and programs to help people struggling with substance abuse. You helped veterans.

You studied education and became a certified teacher in math and science. You served in what I believe is the most difficult political position on earth—a local school board. Man, I wish they were televised in those days. I'm sure it would have been a sight to see! You understood that education is the surest path to freedom, and you worked hard to ensure that every child (including your two sons) had an opportunity to pursue that path.

The truth is, Ada, you have done so much for so many, and you've set a high bar for the rest of us. I am saddened that you left this earthy world far too soon because I know you had so many more things you would do to make it a better place. But thank you for everything you did Ada, and thank you for the blessing of your friendship.

Now that you've had a few weeks in the Kingdom of Heaven, I hope you've found time to rest. You deserve it, Ada. Know that we are praying for you and that we love you, and we will continue to be inspired by your life's work.

With Love and Admiration, Thom T.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 1928a, and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly to fill the existing vacancy thereon: Mr. Crow of Colorado.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 703 of the Social

Security Act (42 U.S.C. 903), and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Social Security Advisory Board for a term of 6 years, effective October 9, 2022: Mrs. Amy Shuart Gingrich of Alexandria, Virginia.

The message also announced that pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 2004(b), and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation, to fill the existing vacancy thereon: Mr. Kim of New Jersey.

The message further announced that pursuant to 29 U.S.C. 780, and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the National Council on Disability: Ms. Sascha Bittner of San Francisco, California.

The message also announced that pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2501, and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission: Mrs. Hayes of Connecticut.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 50802 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-123), and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Speaker reappoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission on Social Impact Partnerships: Ms. Anne Wilson of San Rafael, California.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 8987. An act to amend the Justice for United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Act to authorize appropriations for catch-up payments from the United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Fund.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on October 17, 2022, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 169. An act to amend title 17, United States Code, to require the Register of Copyrights to waive fees for filing an application for registration of a copyright claim in certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

S. 442. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to require the Administrator of General Services to procure the most life-cycle cost effective and energy efficient lighting products and to issue guidance on the efficiency, effectiveness, and economy of those products, and for other purposes.

S. 516. An act to plan for and coordinate efforts to integrate advanced air mobility aircraft into the national airspace system, and for other purposes.

S. 958. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to expand the allowable use criteria for new access points grants for community health centers.

S. 1198. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and expand the Solid Start program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2490. An act to establish the Blackwell School National Historic Site in Marfa, Texas, and for other purposes.

S. 2551. An act to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to establish or otherwise provide an artificial intelligence training program for the acquisition workforce, and for other purposes.

S. 2771. An act to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in San Angelo, Texas, as the "Colonel Charles and JoAnne Powell Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic".

S. 2794. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase automatic maximum coverage under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program and the Veterans' Group Life Insurance program, and for other purposes.

S. 3157. An act to require the Secretary of Labor to conduct a study of the factors affecting employment opportunities for immigrants and refugees with professional credentials obtained in foreign countries.

S. 3470. An act to provide for the implementation of certain trafficking in contracting provisions, and for other purposes.

S. 4205. An act to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to establish a working group relating to best practices and Federal guidance for animals in emergencies and disasters, and for other purposes.

S. 4791. An act to amend section 301 of title 44, United States Code, to establish a term for the appointment of the Director of the Government Publishing Office.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communication was laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and was referred as indicated:

EC-5238. A communication from the Secretary of the Senate, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the receipts and expenditures of the Senate for the period from April 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2022; ordered to lie on the table.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of October 14, 2022, the following reports of committees were submitted on October 18, 2022:

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 3868. A bill to correct the inequitable denial of enhanced retirement and annuity benefits to certain U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers (Rept. No. 117-175).

S. 3903. A bill to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to establish procedures for conducting maintenance projects at ports of entry at which the Office of Field Operations conducts certain enforcement and facilitation activities (Rept. No. 117-176).

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 3904. A bill to enhance the cybersecurity of the Healthcare and Public Health Sector (Rept. No. 117-177).

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 4337. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to authorize the appointment of spouses of members of the Armed Forces who are on active duty, disabled, or deceased to positions in which the spouses will work remotely (Rept. No. 117-178).

By Mr. MANCHIN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 557. A bill to establish a pilot program for native plant species, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-179).

S. 1718. A bill to amend the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park Establishment Act of 2000 to provide for additional areas to be added to the park, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-180).

S. 1769. A bill to adjust the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the Rim of the Valley Corridor, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-181).

By Mr. MANCHIN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment:

S. 2693. A bill to amend the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 to authorize additional projects related to the Salton Sea, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-182).

By Mr. MANCHIN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 3141. A bill to establish the New Philadelphia National Historical Park in the State of Illinois as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-183).

By Mr. MANCHIN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 3185. A bill to amend the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Improvement Act to extend the exception to the closure of certain roads within the Recreation Area for local businesses, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-184).

By Mr. MANCHIN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with amendments:

S. 3307. A bill to modify the boundary of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in the State of Missouri, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-185).

By Mr. MANCHIN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 3404. A bill to provide the consent of Congress to an amendment to the Constitution of the State of New Mexico (Rept. No. 117-186).

S. 3450. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct, operate, and maintain facilities in the Sun River project, Montana, for the purpose of hydroelectric power generation (Rept. No. 117-187).

By Mr. MANCHIN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment:

S. 4176. A bill to amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to modify the eligibility requirements for certain small water storage and groundwater storage projects and to authorize the use of funds for certain additional Carey Act projects, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-188).

By Mr. MANCHIN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

H.R. 3531. An act to authorize the Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation

to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-189).

S. 3685. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the John P. Parker House in Ripley, Ohio, as a unit of the National Park System (Rept. No. 117-190).

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

Report to accompany S. 3375. A bill to promote travel and tourism in the United States, to improve the health safety and security of international flights entering the United States, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-191).

By Mr. DURBIN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. 977. A bill to amend the Sherman Act to make oil-producing and exporting cartels illegal.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR, from the Committee on Rules and Administration, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 4573. A bill to amend title 3, United States Code, to reform the Electoral Count Act, and to amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to provide clear guidelines for when and to whom resources are provided by the Administrator of General Services for use in connection with the preparations for the assumption of official duties as President or Vice President.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1009. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 regarding the procurement of certain items related to national security interests for Department of Homeland Security frontline operational components, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-192).

S. 4460. A bill to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to regularly review and update policies and manuals related to inspections at ports of entry (Rept. No. 117-193).

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

H.R. 3709. An act to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to submit to Congress a report on preliminary damage assessments and make necessary improvements to processes in the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-194).

H.R. 7077. An act to require the United States Fire Administration to conduct on-site investigations of major fires, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-195).

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 Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. MORAN):

S. 5076. A bill to require training for employees of Federal agencies that award less than 3 percent of prime contracts to small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. SULLIVAN:

S. 5077. A bill to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide that Alexander Creek, Incorporated, is recognized as a Village Corporation under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Ms. SMITH):

S. 5078. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 East Main Street in Vergas, Minnesota, as the "Jon Glawe Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Ms. SMITH):

S. 5079. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 202 2nd Avenue in Oklee, Minnesota, as the "Coya Knutson Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 5080. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to promulgate a Federal motor vehicle safety standard to reduce the incidence of child injury and death occurring during low-speed incidents involving motor vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 5081. A bill to establish an Office of Environmental Justice within the Department of Justice, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 5082. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to General Secretary Xi Jinping and other senior officials of the Chinese Communist Party complicit in the perpetration of genocide and other crimes against humanity against Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. KAINE):

S. 5083. A bill to require the Secretary of State to submit an annual report to Congress regarding the ties between criminal gangs and political and economic elites in Haiti; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. HAGERTY (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 5084. A bill to reprioritize Federal law enforcement funds from prosecuting non-violent pro-life demonstrators to prosecuting violent offenders and drug traffickers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 5085. A bill to prohibit the government of the District of Columbia from using Federal funds to allow individuals who are not citizens of the United States to vote in any election, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S.J. Res. 64. A joint resolution disapproving of the rule submitted by the Department of Homeland Security relating to "Public Charge Ground of Inadmissibility"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. MARKEY):

S. Res. 830. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of October 24, 2022, to October 31, 2022, as "Bat Week"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 56

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 56, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants for training and support services for families and caregivers of people living with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia.

S. 190

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 190, a bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to require the safe storage of firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 246

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 246, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants to support schools of nursing in program enhancement and infrastructure modernization, increasing the number of nursing faculty and students, and for other purposes.

S. 285

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 285, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to allow States to make medical assistance available to inmates during the 30-day period preceding their release.

S. 406

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 406, a bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

S. 586

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 586, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to combat the opioid crisis by promoting access to non-opioid treatments in the hospital outpatient setting.

S. 605

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 605, a bill to reduce the number of preventable deaths and injuries caused by override crashes, to improve motor carrier and passenger motor vehicle safety, and for other purposes.

S. 662

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms.

ROSEN) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 662, a bill to establish an interactive online dashboard to allow the public to review information for Federal grant funding related to mental health programs.

S. 692

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 692, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the female telephone operators of the Army Signal Corps, known as the "Hello Girls".

S. 757

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 757, a bill to amend the Black Lung Benefits Act to ease the benefits process for survivors of miners whose deaths were due to pneumoconiosis.

S. 771

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 771, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify authorities relating to the collective bargaining of employees in the Veterans Health Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 976

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 976, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and to expand eligibility for dependency and indemnity compensation paid to certain survivors of certain veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1125

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1125, a bill to recommend that the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation test the effect of a dementia care management model, and for other purposes.

S. 1134

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1134, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Master Sergeant Rodrick "Roddie" Edmonds in recognition of his heroic actions during World War II.

S. 1157

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1157, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow workers an above-the-line deduction for union dues and expenses and to allow a miscellaneous itemized deduction for workers for all unreimbursed expenses

incurred in the trade or business of being an employee.

S. 1175

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1175, a bill to categorize public safety telecommunicators as a protective service occupation under the Standard Occupational Classification System.

S. 1337

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1337, a bill to address the impact of climate change on agriculture, and for other purposes.

S. 1372

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1372, 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. 1401

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1401, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve nutritional and other program requirements relating to purchases of locally produced food.

S. 1408

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1408, a bill to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith, in recognition of their contributions to the Nation.

S. 1450

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1450, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for expanded coverage of services furnished by genetic counselors under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1466

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1466, a bill to authorize the Director of the United States Geological Survey to establish a regional program to assess, monitor, and benefit the hydrology of saline lakes in the Great Basin and the migratory birds and other wildlife dependent on those habitats, and for other purposes.

S. 1471

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a co-

sponsor of S. 1471, a bill to enhance protections of Native American tangible cultural heritage, and for other purposes.

S. 1544

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1544, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline enrollment under the Medicaid program of certain providers across State lines, and for other purposes.

S. 1996

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1996, a bill to protect human rights and enhance opportunities for LGBTQI people around the world, and for other purposes.

S. 2037

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2037, a bill to amend title XVIII to strengthen ambulance services furnished under part B of the Medicare program.

S. 2094

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2094, a bill to provide for a new building period with respect to the cap on full-time equivalent residents for purposes of payment for graduate medical education costs under the Medicare program for certain hospitals that have established a shortage specialty program.

S. 2287

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2287, a bill to improve Federal population surveys by requiring the collection of voluntary, self-disclosed information on sexual orientation and gender identity in certain surveys, and for other purposes.

S. 2340

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2340, a bill to improve the safety and security of the Federal judiciary.

S. 2515

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2515, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to treat attendance at an institution of higher education the same as work for the purpose of determining eligibility to participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

S. 2652

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2652, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify congressional intent and preserve patient

access to home infusion therapy under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2790

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2790, a bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to subject the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection to the regular appropriations process, and for other purposes.

S. 2798

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2798, a bill to amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act to improve compensation for workers involved in uranium mining, and for other purposes.

S. 2853

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2853, a bill to provide grants to State, local, territorial, and Tribal law enforcement agencies to purchase chemical screening devices and train personnel to use chemical screening devices in order to enhance law enforcement efficiency and protect law enforcement officers.

S. 2872

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 2872, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the adjusted gross income limitation for above-the-line deduction of expenses of performing artist employees, and for other purposes.

S. 2907

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2907, a bill to establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2930

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2930, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to modify requirements for local school wellness policies.

S. 2952

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2952, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to allow manufacturers and sponsors of a drug to use alternative testing methods to animal testing to investigate the safety and effectiveness of a drug, and for other purposes.

S. 2981

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2981, a bill to amend the National Housing Act to establish a mortgage insurance program for first responders, and for other purposes.

S. 3018

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3018, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish requirements with respect to the use of prior authorization under Medicare Advantage plans, and for other purposes.

S. 3095

At the request of Ms. LUMMIS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3095, a bill to address Federal employees who comply with Executive Order 14043, and for other purposes.

S. 3281

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3281, a bill to amend the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act to clarify and expand food donation, and for other purposes.

S. 3340

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3340, a bill to establish a competitive grant program to provide assistance to support small businesses and business district revitalization in low-income, rural, and minority communities, and for other purposes.

S. 3542

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3542, a bill to prevent the misuse of drones, and for other purposes.

S. 3603

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3603, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to improve the ability of veterans to access medical care in medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs and in the community by providing veterans the ability to choose health care providers.

S. 3607

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3607, a bill to award a Congressional gold medal, collectively, to the First Rhode Island Regiment, in recognition of their dedicated service during the Revolutionary War.

S. 3686

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr.

WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3686, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide education and training on eating disorders for health care providers and communities, and for other purposes.

S. 3748

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3748, a bill to expand employees eligible for leave and employers subject to leave requirements.

S. 3797

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 3797, a bill to amend title V of the Social Security Act to support still-birth prevention and research, and for other purposes.

S. 3854

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3854, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve certain programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs for home and community based services for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 3868

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3868, a bill to correct the inequitable denial of enhanced retirement and annuity benefits to certain U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers.

S. 3899

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3899, a bill to amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to reauthorize and update the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 3909

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3909, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make employers of spouses of military personnel eligible for the work opportunity credit.

S. 4037

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4037, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the transparency of pharmaceutical research costs, and for other purposes.

S. 4111

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4111, a bill to support research and State management efforts relating to chronic wasting disease, and for other purposes.

S. 4120

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4120, a bill to maximize discovery, and accelerate development and availability, of promising childhood cancer treatments, and for other purposes.

S. 4192

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4192, a bill amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to end the tax subsidy for employer efforts to influence their workers' exercise of their rights around labor organizations and engaging in collective action.

S. 4221

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4221, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to achieve parity between the cost-of-living adjustment with respect to an annuity under the Federal Employees Retirement System and an annuity under the Civil Service Retirement System, and for other purposes.

S. 4240

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 4240, a bill to amend section 2441 of title 18, United States Code, to broaden the scope of individuals subject to prosecution for war crimes.

S. 4260

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 4260, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, social work schools, and other programs, including physician assistant education programs, to promote education and research in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

S. 4360

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4360, a bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to extend the authority to temporarily adjust the basic allowance for housing in certain areas.

S. 4381

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4381, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act with respect to nursing facility requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 4529

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4529, a bill to provide protections for children in immigration custody, and for other purposes.

S. 4573

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 4573, a bill to amend title 3, United States Code, to reform the Electoral Count Act, and to amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to provide clear guidelines for when and to whom resources are provided by the Administrator of General Services for use in connection with the preparations for the assumption of official duties as President or Vice President.

S. 4580

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4580, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require a lactation space in each medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S. 4587

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 4587, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Benjamin Berell Ferencz, in recognition of his service to the United States and international community during the post-World War II Nuremberg trials and lifelong advocacy for international criminal justice and rule of law.

S. 4604

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4604, a bill to amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to authorize grants for eligible institutions to carry out agriculture workforce training programs, and for other purposes.

S. 4708

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4708, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage for wigs as durable medical equipment under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 4725

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4725, a bill to amend parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to improve foster and adoptive parent

recruitment and retention, and for other purposes.

S. 4829

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4829, a bill to create intergovernmental coordination on addressing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substance contamination, and for other purposes.

S. 4847

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4847, a bill to develop a scenario-based training curriculum for law enforcement personnel, and for other purposes.

S. 4851

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4851, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a national project to prevent and cure Parkinson's, to be known as the National Parkinson's Project, and for other purposes.

S. 4896

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4896, a bill to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Pueblos of Jemez and Zia in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes.

S. 4898

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4898, a bill to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna in the Rio San Jose Stream System in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes.

S. 4916

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 4916, a bill to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes.

S. 4950

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4950, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4110 Bluebonnet Drive in Stafford, Texas, as the "Leonard Scarcella Post Office Building".

S. 4961

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4961, a bill to provide limits on the reduction of Internal Revenue Service user fees.

S. 4982

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from

Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 4982, a bill to establish the International Children with Disabilities Protection Program within the Department of State, and for other purposes.

S. 5021

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 5021, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain broadband grants from gross income.

S. 5037

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5037, a bill to prohibit funding for the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer until China is no longer defined a developing country.

S. RES. 754

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 754, a resolution designating November 13, 2022, as "National Warrior Call Day" in recognition of the importance of connecting warriors in the United States to support structures necessary to transition from the battlefield.

S. RES. 797

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 797, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate condemning Azerbaijani forces' illegal and unprovoked assault on Armenian territory and insisting upon the cessation of security assistance to Azerbaijan in accordance with Federal law.

AMENDMENT NO. 5606

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 5606 intended to be proposed to H.R. 7900, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2023 for military activities of the Department of Defense and 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 5915

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 5915 intended to be proposed to H.R. 7900, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2023 for military activities of the Department of Defense and 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 5918

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 5918 intended to be proposed to H.R. 7900, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2023 for military activities of the Department of Defense and 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 6021

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 6021 intended to be proposed to H.R. 7900, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2023 for military activities of the Department of Defense and 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 6319

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 6319 intended to be proposed to H.R. 7900, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2023 for military activities of the Department of Defense and 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 6424

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 6424 intended to be proposed to H.R. 7900, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2023 for military activities of the Department of Defense and 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.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 5081. A bill to establish an Office of Environmental Justice within the Department of Justice, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Empowering and Enforcing Environmental Justice Act to improve efforts at the Department of Justice to hold polluters accountable and to build capacity at State, local,

and Tribal governments to do the same.

The Empowering and Enforcing Environmental Justice Act builds on the recent announcement by the Department of Justice to launch a new Office of Environmental Justice. My bill would make this new office permanent and authorize \$50 million in grant funding to assist State, local, and Tribal governments with their own environmental enforcement efforts. It would also create a new Section for Environmental Justice within the Environment and Natural Resources Division to bring cases for violations of environmental laws in low-income communities and communities of color burdened by pollution.

Environmental hazards like air, water, and land pollution disproportionately affect communities that have been historically marginalized, such as Tribal communities, low-income populations, and communities of color. Many of these communities have been further neglected by decades of underinvestment in housing, transportation, water and wastewater infrastructure, and healthcare. The codification of a permanent Office of Environmental Justice will ensure that DOJ coordinates with Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies to advance environmental justice and will give communities a seat at the table where decisions impacting their communities are being made. Further, a permanent Environmental Justice Section will help ensure that environmental justice is at the forefront of DOJ's enforcement work while improving enforcement of title VI of the Civil Rights Act to investigate civil rights complaints related to environmental justice.

Finally, the new grant program this legislation would establish would improve the capacity of State, local, and Tribal agencies to launch their own environmental enforcement efforts—which is necessary for a whole-of-government approach to reversing environmental injustice.

Enforcement of our Nation's bedrock environmental laws cannot be something that ebbs and flows between administrations but must be a constant commitment from the Federal Government to protecting the communities most over-exposed to pollution. Enacting this legislation will guarantee a long-term commitment by the Federal Government to advancing environmental justice and to building healthier, cleaner communities.

I am grateful to Representative BARRAGAN for leading this effort in the House of Representatives, and I am thankful that the Department of Justice is willing to prioritize defending environmental justice. I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact this bill as quickly as possible.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 830—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 24, 2022, TO OCTOBER 31, 2022, AS “BAT WEEK”

Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. MARKEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 830

Whereas bats are vital to the sustainability of natural ecosystems, national economies, and human health by controlling damaging insect pests, pollinating plants that produce fruits and vegetables, dispersing seeds to ensure healthy functioning forests and fields, and saving farmers in the United States more than \$3,000,000,000 in pest control every year;

Whereas bats have captured the human imagination through backyard sightings, folklore, art, myths, and legends, making outreach and education about the importance of bats instrumental;

Whereas bats are present throughout the world, except in extremely cold regions, and are the second-largest order of mammals with over 1,400 species;

Whereas white-nose syndrome, a fungal disease that has killed millions of bats in North America, has now spread to 38 States and 12 species of hibernating bats;

Whereas the disease has caused significant declines in populations of the tricolored bat, the little brown bat, and the northern long-eared bat, which are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

Whereas the Department of the Interior, through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Geological Survey, National Park Service, and Bureau of Land Management is leading the international response to the disease in partnership with the United States Forest Service and more than 150 Federal and State agencies, Tribes, nongovernmental organizations, and universities;

Whereas the United States Geological Survey and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service co-lead the multinational, multi-agency North American Bat Monitoring Program (NABat) which since 2015 has consolidated nearly 68,000,000 records from partners in 49 States, 8 Canadian provinces, and 10 Tribal organizations, demonstrating the power of collaborative conservation science to monitor changes in North American bat populations;

Whereas the United States Geological Survey conducts scientific research on bats, which helps resource managers and policymakers make informed decisions regarding the conservation of bats across North America; and

Whereas, in the past decade, the international partnership of States, Tribes, Federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and institutions has made extraordinary progress to understand white-nose syndrome, slow the spread, and develop treatments that hold promise for ending this epidemic: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of “Bat Week”;

(2) encourages the observance of Bat Week with appropriate events and activities;

(3) acknowledges the important role bats play as pollinators and pest control for agriculture; and

(4) intends to—

(A) continue working to conserve bat species and habitat; and

(B) work to defeat the disease known as white-nose syndrome.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 6477. Mr. MARSHALL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5499 proposed by Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) to the bill H.R. 7900, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2023 for military activities of the Department of Defense and 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 6478. Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5499 proposed by Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) to the bill H.R. 7900, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 6479. Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5499 proposed by Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) to the bill H.R. 7900, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 6477. Mr. MARSHALL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5499 proposed by Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) to the bill H.R. 7900, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2023 for military activities of the Department of Defense and 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 B of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 730. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS TO CARRY OUT MEMORANDUM RELATING TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE.

No funds appropriated pursuant to an authorization of appropriations under this Act may be used to carry out the memorandum of the Secretary of Defense dated October 20, 2022, relating to ensuring access to reproductive health care.

SA 6478. Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5499 proposed by Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) to the bill H.R. 7900, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2023 for military activities of the Department of Defense and 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 LII, add the following:

SEC. 5298. EXPANSION OF DEFENSE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PILOT PROGRAM TO INCLUDE INSTALLATIONS OF THE COAST GUARD.

Section 2391(e)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the

following new sentence: “For purposes of subsection (d), the term ‘military installation’ includes an installation of the Coast Guard under the jurisdiction of the Department of Homeland Security.”.

SA 6479. Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5499 proposed by Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) to the bill H.R. 7900, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2023 for military activities of the Department of Defense and 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 C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1239. LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR ARMED FORCES OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES IN, AND AID TO, COVERED NATO MEMBER COUNTRIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), none of the funds authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2023 for the Department of Defense may be obligated or expended for any of the following purposes:

(1) To conduct operations, activities, or actions in a covered NATO member country.

(2) To station members of the Armed Forces in, or rotate members of the Armed Forces through, a covered NATO member country.

(3) To provide military aid, including lethal and non-lethal assistance, to a covered NATO member country.

(b) WAIVER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense may waive subsection (a) if, not later than 30 days after the use of funds described in that subsection for a purpose described in that subsection, the Secretary submits to the congressional defense committees a certification that a waiver is in the national security interests of the United States.

(2) ELEMENT.—A certification submitted under paragraph (1) shall include a detailed written justification for the waiver.

(c) COVERED NATO MEMBER COUNTRY DEFINED.—In this section, the term “covered NATO member country” means—

(1) any country that is a member of NATO as of June 2022 that fails to achieve defense spending of not less than 2 percent of its gross domestic product by 2024, as agreed to at the 2014 Wales Summit; and

(2) any country that becomes a member of NATO after June 2022 that fails to achieve defense spending of not less than 2 percent of its gross domestic product by the earlier of—

(A) the date that is 5 years after the date on which the country joined NATO; or

(B) the date agreed to at the 2022 Madrid Summit.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following interns and fellows in my office be granted floor privileges for the remainder of this Congress: Jackson Hoppe, David Park, Martin Aleman, and Srdjan Simunovic.

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

NOTICE: REGISTRATION OF MASS MAILINGS

The filing date for the 2022 third quarter Mass Mailing report is Tues-

day, Oct 25, 2022. An electronic option is available on Webster that will allow forms to be submitted via a fillable PDF document. If your office did no mass mailings during this period, please submit a form that states “none.”

Mass mailing registrations or negative reports can be submitted electronically at http://webster.senate.gov/secretary/mass_mailing_form.htm or e-mailed to OPR_MassMailings@sec.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact the Senate Office of Public Records at (202) 224-0322.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

NOVEMBER 14, 2022.

Hon. KAMALA HARRIS,
President of the United States Senate,
Washington, DC.

MADAM: I have the honor to submit a full and complete statement of the receipts and expenditures of the Senate, showing in detail the items of expense under proper appropriations, the aggregate thereof, and exhibiting the exact condition of all public moneys received, paid out, and remaining in my possession from April 1, 2022 to September 30, 2022, in compliance with Section 105 of Public Law 88-454, approved August 20, 1964, as amended.

Sincerely,

SONCERIA A. BERRY,
Secretary of the Senate.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S.J. RES. 63

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, at a time to be determined by the majority leader following consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 523, S.J. Res. 63; that there be 30 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form; and that upon use or yielding back of time, the joint resolution be considered read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution without further intervening action or debate.

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

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announced, on behalf of the Republican leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 106-398, as amended by Public Law 108-7, and in consultation with the ranking members of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, the re-appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the United States—China Economic and Security Review Commission: Robin Cleveland of Virginia for a term expiring December 31, 2024.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 8987

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 8987) to amend the Justice for United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Act to authorize appropriations for catch-up payments from the United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Fund.

Mr. MERKLEY. I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2022

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 11 a.m. on Tuesday, November 15; 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; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Antongiorgi-Jordan nomination postclosure; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; and, at 2:15 p.m., the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination. Finally, if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday's session of the Senate, that the motions 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.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11 A.M. TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:52 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at 11 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

MARTIN J. GRUENBERG, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS. (REAPPOINTMENT)

MARTIN J. GRUENBERG, OF MARYLAND, TO BE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FEDERAL

DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS. VICE JELENA MCWILLIAMS, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

DANIEL I. WERFEL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE FOR THE TERM EXPIRING NOVEMBER 12, 2027, VICE CHARLES P. RETTIG, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JAIME E. ESPARZA, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE JOHN F. BASH, RESIGNED.

ALAMDAR S. HAMDANI, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE RYAN K. PATRICK, RESIGNED.

PETER D. LEARY, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE CHARLES E. PEELER, RESIGNED.

LEIGHA SIMONTON, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE ERIN ANGELA NEALY COX, RESIGNED.

JILL E. STEINBERG, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE BOBBY L. CHRISTINE, RESIGNED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

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

To be brigadier general

COL. LISA M. AHAESY
COL. JENIFER E. PARDY
COL. TAD J. SCHAUER
COL. KRISTOF K. SILLS

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

To be brigadier general

COL. STEVEN A. BREITFELDER
COL. JASON S. CHRISTMAN

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

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. DENISE M. DONNELL
BRIG. GEN. JOSEPH R. HARRIS II

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

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. DONALD K. CARPENTER
BRIG. GEN. SAMUEL C. KEENER
BRIG. GEN. MARK W. MITCHUM
BRIG. GEN. MARK D. PIPER

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

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. TROY T. DANIELS
BRIG. GEN. TERRENCE L. KOUDELKA, JR.

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

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. KONATA A. CRUMBLY
BRIG. GEN. KENNETH S. EAVES
BRIG. GEN. ROBERT G. KILGORE
BRIG. GEN. GARY A. MCCUE
BRIG. GEN. BRYAN E. SALMON
BRIG. GEN. BRYAN J. TEFF

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

To be brigadier general

COL. PAUL M. BISHOP
COL. TYLER D. BUCKLEY
COL. SCOTT C. HUMPHREY
COL. CHRISTOPHER A. JARRATT
COL. JENNIFER R. KONDAL
COL. GREGORY R. LEWIS
COL. KENNETH LOZANO
COL. ILEANA RAMIREZ PEREZ
COL. LINDA A. ROHATSCH
COL. JEREMIAH S. TUCKER
COL. KEITH C. WILSON

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

To be brigadier general

COL. CHRISTOPHER G. BATTERTON

COL. DANIEL J. BEGIN
COL. MATTHEW G. BRANCATO
COL. MATTHEW D. CALHOUN
COL. ANDREW J. CAMACHO
COL. BARRY F. DEIBERT
COL. MICHAEL J. DIDIO
COL. GEORGE H. DOWNS
COL. MEGAN H. ERICKSON
COL. CHRISTOPHER D. GRIES
COL. MICHAEL S. GRIESBAUM
COL. JASON L. HAWK
COL. SHAWN E. HOLTZ
COL. SHAWNE M. JOHNSON
COL. MITCHELL R. JOHNSON
COL. BRIAN D. KILE
COL. JASON W. KNIGHT
COL. JASON L. KNOBBE
COL. DANIEL J. KRAMER II
COL. QUAID H. QUADRI, JR.
COL. CHRISTOPHER J. SOUTHARD
COL. TRACE N. THOMAS

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

To be brigadier general

COL. CHRISTOPHER A. EASON
COL. AMY P. KREMSEY
COL. KALLIE D. KUEHL
COL. REID J. NOVOTNY
COL. HUMBERTO PABON, JR.
COL. JONATHAN L. VINSON
COL. JUSTIN T. WAGNER

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

To be brigadier general

COL. KENNETH A. BORCHERS
COL. GENE C. BUCKNER
COL. RICHARD L. COFFEY III
COL. MARTIN L. HARTLEY, JR.
COL. RAYMOND L. HYLAND, JR.
COL. PATRICK L. LANAGHAN
COL. JOSHUA D. LEWIS
COL. BRIAN S. MCCULLOUGH
COL. MARK L. MILLER
COL. ADAM T. RICE
COL. RONALD N. SPEIR, JR.
COL. JOSEPH H. STEPP IV
COL. TODD E. SWASS

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

To be brigadier general

COL. JOHN A. CONLEY
COL. SCOTT A. CORADI
COL. CHRISTOPHER M. DUNLAP
COL. MATTHEW J. FRENCH
COL. NATHAN W. KEARNS
COL. JOSEPH F. MORRISSEY, JR.
COL. BEVERLY G. SCHNEIDER
COL. LANE A. THURGOOD
COL. BRIAN J. TOLLEFSON

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

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. STEVEN S. NORDHAUS

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

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. JAMES C. SLIFE

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

To be brigadier general

COL. CHRISTOPHER A. BROWN

IN THE ARMY

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

To be brigadier general

COL. PAIGE M. JENNINGS

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

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. ANTONIO A. AGUTO, JR.

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

To be brigadier general

COL. WARREN L. WELLS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM E. CRANE
BRIG. GEN. KODJO S. KNOX-LIMBACKER
BRIG. GEN. SHAWN P. MANKE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. LEVON E. CUMPTON
BRIG. GEN. GREGORY C. KNIGHT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. ANTHONY H. ADRIAN
BRIG. GEN. MIGUEL AGUILAR
BRIG. GEN. JANEEN L. BIRCKHEAD
BRIG. GEN. RODNEY C. BOYD
BRIG. GEN. STANLEY E. BUDRAITIS
BRIG. GEN. ROBERT G. CARRUTHERS III
BRIG. GEN. ANDREW J. CHEVALIER
BRIG. GEN. RONALD A. CUPPLES
BRIG. GEN. ROBERT B. DAVIS
BRIG. GEN. GREGORY T. DAY
BRIG. GEN. NICK DUCICH
BRIG. GEN. DIANE L. DUNN
BRIG. GEN. ADAM R. FLASCH
BRIG. GEN. BRYAN J. GRENON
BRIG. GEN. LYNN M. HENG
BRIG. GEN. STEFANIE K. HORVATH
BRIG. GEN. BRYAN M. HOWAY
BRIG. GEN. JACK A. JAMES
BRIG. GEN. CHARLES G. KEMPER IV
BRIG. GEN. STEVEN J. KREMER
BRIG. GEN. LOWELL E. KRUSE
BRIG. GEN. ROY J. MACARAEG
BRIG. GEN. THOMAS H. MANCINO
BRIG. GEN. JAMES G. MCCORMACK
BRIG. GEN. JENNIFER R. MITCHELL
BRIG. GEN. JOHN A. PELLERITI
BRIG. GEN. STEPHANIE A. PURGERSON
BRIG. GEN. CARL T. REESE
BRIG. GEN. STEPHEN L. RHOADES
BRIG. GEN. SHAWN R. SATTERFIELD
BRIG. GEN. SCOTT M. SHERMAN
BRIG. GEN. MATTHEW D. SMITH
BRIG. GEN. THOMAS M. VICKERS, JR.
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL E. WEGSCHEIDER
BRIG. GEN. RICHARD D. WILSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. FARIN D. SCHWARTZ

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. JERRY E. BAIRD, JR.
COL. DEBORAH L. BARTUNEK
COL. JONATHAN P. BEDDALL
COL. MATTHEW P. BEILFUSS
COL. LARRY W. BENTON
COL. LELAND D. BLANCHARD II
COL. WILEY O. BLEVINS, JR.
COL. TIMOTHY M. BROWER
COL. CLAYTON W. CHAPPELL
COL. BENJAMIN T. CLEGHORN
COL. ANTHONY J. CLOUD
COL. DAVID R. DORAN
COL. MICHAEL W. ECKER
COL. STEVEN A. FAIRBOURN
COL. SEAN M. FLYNN
COL. JAMES C. FOWLER
COL. JOSEPH H. GARDNER II
COL. ARTHUR J. GARFFER, JR.
COL. MICHAEL P. GRUNDMAN
COL. MICHAEL S. HATFIELD
COL. JAMES B. HAYNIE
COL. JAVONTKA R. HOFFLEIN
COL. SCOTT E. HOUSE
COL. CHRISTOPHER A. HYMAN
COL. NICHOLAS P. JASKOLSKI
COL. GRAY A. JOHNSON, JR.
COL. MARK E. KALIN
COL. TIMOTHY T. KEMP
COL. JARED D. LAKE
COL. RANDY I. LAU
COL. MICHAEL J. LIESMANN
COL. MURRY B. MCCULLOUGH
COL. CARL C. MEREDITH
COL. SCOTT L. MEYERS
COL. WESLEY D. MURRAY
COL. SEAN C. NIKKILA
COL. BRENT A. ORR
COL. CHRISTOPHER T. PATTERSON
COL. ROBERT J. PAYNE
COL. TRACEY L. POIRIER
COL. ERIC A. RANT
COL. RANDY N. REMIKER
COL. JOSE D. RIVERA
COL. CHRISTOPHER J. SAMULSKI
COL. THOMAS K. SARROUF
COL. MICHAEL T. SCATES
COL. SIMON L. SCHAEFER
COL. TODD W. SCHAEFFER
COL. THEODORE R. SCOTT III
COL. JOSEPH J. SHARKEY
COL. ANDREW B. STONE
COL. WILLIAM E. TEMPLE V
COL. CARLOS G. TORRES-FEBUS
COL. KENDRICK D. TRAYLOR
COL. TANYA R. TROUT
COL. DANIEL R. WATERS
COL. KENNETH P. WISNIEWSKI III

COL. COLBY B. WYATT
COL. JAMES E. YOUNG III
COL. RICHARD J. ZEIGLER III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. MATTHEW M. BACON
COL. NATHANIEL L. CARPER
COL. MICHAEL J. EASTRIDGE
COL. JAKOB Z. NORMAN
COL. JAMES C. PACKWOOD
COL. JAMES M. PALEMBAS, JR.
COL. SALLY F. PETTY

IN THE MARINE CORPS

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

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. JOHN F. KELLIHER III
BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM E. SOUZA III

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

To be brigadier general

COL. RAYMOND L. ADAMS
COL. JOHN K. JARRARD

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

To be brigadier general

COL. KEVIN S. WOODARD

IN THE NAVY

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

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. JOHN F. WADE

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

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. JONATHAN T. STEPHENS

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 2121(E):

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. WILLIAM G. DWYER

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ANDREA COHEN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable cancer survivor, Mrs. Andrea Cohen.

Mrs. Andrea Cohen is the daughter of Annie Lee Jones. She is a native of Grenada, MS. She is also the wife of Pastor Darien Cohen and the amazing mother of three beautiful children—Deshawn Cohen, Shakeeria Atkins, and D'Ashley Cohen. She has 4 beautiful grandchildren—Laniah, Deshawn Jr. (DJ), Kendall, and Addison.

Mrs. Cohen is a full-time teacher at the Grenada Lower Elementary School. She has been teaching for over 10 years. Mrs. Cohen loves her students dearly and she enjoys teaching them. She goes above and beyond to make sure her students learn the material is being taught to them.

She graduated from the University of Mississippi with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education. She then returned to the University of Mississippi and received two master's degrees.

Mrs. Cohen was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2018. She fought through chemo and two years later Mrs. Cohen was cancer free.

Mrs. Cohen is a living testimony, and she does not mind telling other young women what she has gone through and how she fought through her dark times.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Andrea Cohen for being a light that shines even in her dark times.

RECOGNIZING RUSTIC BUFFALO ARTISAN MARKET AS THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF TONAWANDAS' BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to honor Rustic Buffalo Artisan Market, a local market that was opened during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was a dedicated effort to help local artisans and their families who would be affected by COVID safety regulations. It filled the void of craft shows, festivals, and large events to sell handmade items. On November 14, 2020, the Western New York community embraced this venture and waited in line for hours.

Since then, Rustic Buffalo Artisan Market has been actively running among its three buildings with over 120 award-winning curated artisans. In addition, Rustic Buffalo Sip &

Shop events are hosted four times a year to promote their partnerships with local non-for-profits and charities. In just the past two years, Rustic Buffalo has raised over \$117,000 for local charities and not-for-profit organizations.

This idea was borne by necessity; the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted so much of our local economy, and it would have had even more devastating consequences had Rustic Buffalo Artisan Market not been created. I know that I speak for countless Western New Yorkers when I say that its operation saved many careers and livelihoods. Looking forward, the Rustic Buffalo Market looks to expand into new territory, which is sure to be just as successful.

Perhaps most impressive, Rustic Buffalo has one hundred percent retention since their opening. Understandably, they have attained many accolades since their opening in 2020. These include the Best New Business of 2020 (Buffalo Spree), Best Gift Shop (Buffalo News), Best New Business in WNY (Buffalo News), and most recently Best Unique Gift Shop in WNY (Buffalo Spree). Rustic Buffalo leadership is also a contributor to Buffalo Business First New Paper on the importance of retention and the continuous need to look for strategies to grow your business.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize this new staple to the local economy and commend their team who remain dedicated to giving back to our community.

IN MEMORY OF REVEREND CHARLES MELVIN SHERROD

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding man of God, iconic civil rights pioneer, dedicated leader and friend of long-standing, Rev. Charles Melvin Sherrod. Sadly, Rev. Sherrod transitioned from labor to reward on Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at the age of 85. He leaves in his wake many heavy hearts among his family, friends, community and across the nation. A homegoing service celebrating his life was held Saturday, October 15, 2022 at Mount Zion Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia at 11:00 a.m.

Charles Sherrod was born on January 2, 1937 in rural Surry, Virginia to the late Mr. Raymond Sherrod and Ms. Martha Mae Gibson. After moving with his grandmother and siblings to nearby Petersburg, Charles would go on to become president of his student body at the all-black Peabody High School where he played sports, participated in theatre, and served as school chaplain (Quiros, 2022). Having heard the call to God's ministry at an early age, his strong Christian faith steeled his resolve to challenge the stain of racial segregation in the Jim Crow south and in 1954 at

the age of 17, he participated in a kneel-in at a segregated white church.

Following graduation from high school, Charles attended Virginia Union University in Richmond where he earned a Bachelor's in Sociology and a Master's in Theology. In February 1960, he and 33 other student activists staged a sit-in at the lunch counter of Thalheimer's Department Store in downtown Richmond, were arrested and became known as the "Richmond 34". In April of that year, Sherrod and other students attended a meeting at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina where the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) was founded. Sherrod volunteered to be placed anywhere and was sent by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to Albany in Southwest Georgia as SNCC's first field secretary along with Cordell Reagon and Charles Jones.

Working with others in Albany, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., he launched a full assault against racial violence and segregation through nonviolent demonstrations and the registration of thousands of disenfranchised Black Americans in the region. Unfortunately, Police Chief Laurie Pritchett, "unlike so many other Southern lawmen, avoided the spectacle of publicly attacking protesters" and just jailed successive waves of them in separate remote locations in surrounding counties until there were no more protesters (Quiros, 2022). The "Albany Movement," as it was called, ended and Dr. King left, but Sherrod persevered with successful Black voter registration. Ultimately, within months the Albany City Commission voted to repeal all segregation laws from its books. Charles Sherrod continued his work in Albany, Americus, Moultrie, and other cities, later changing the focus to school integration.

In 1964, Sherrod left Albany and went to Union Theological Seminary in New York to earn a Master's of Divinity. Meanwhile, he impacted the greater American Civil Rights Movement by recruiting for the 1963 March on Washington and marching for voting rights in Selma on Bloody Sunday. He returned to Albany and brought with him white seminarians to create a moral society where Black and white Americans could live and work together in unity and peace (Quiros, 2022). By 1966 SNCC became more militant, the Black Power Movement emerged and Sherrod broke with SNCC and worked with the Georgia Freedom Project (Quiros, 2022). Also in 1966, Charles Sherrod married Shirley Miller of Baker County and they founded a farming collective, New Communities, which was the largest Black-owned plot in the United States where they worked the land and helped people (Quiros, 2022).

Unfortunately, a severe drought occurred in 1980 and the Sherrods were repeatedly denied help from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the farm was taken by foreclosure (Quiros, 2022). Devastated by the loss of the farm, Charles and Shirley nevertheless continued their work in southwest Georgia. Charles was elected to the Albany City Commission serving 14 years, was a prison chaplain and a professor at Albany State University.

• 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.

The Sherrod's sued USDA, alleging racial discrimination and were awarded a settlement for wrongful dispossession of New Communities; they used the money to purchase Cypress Pond Plantation, an antebellum plantation now managed by descendants of slaves, to help rural Black landowners profit from farming and to be a model for solving the nation's affordable housing shortage (Quiros, 2022). "From marching in the Albany Movement, being beaten and jailed, registering rural folks to vote, serving in local politics, and founding New Communities," wrote Professor Ansley L. Quiros in a piece published by the Washington Post, "Sherrod stayed with the course of freedom and the beloved community until his death" (2022).

Rev. Charles M. Sherrod accomplished much in his life, but none would be possible without the grace of God and the love and support of his wife, Shirley; his two children, Russia and Kenyatta; his 5 grandchildren, and other family and loved ones who will miss him dearly.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join my wife, Vivian and me, along with the 730,000 people of the 2nd Congressional District of Georgia in honoring the life and legacy of Rev. Charles Melvin Sherrod and in extending our deepest condolences to his family, friends and all who mourn his loss. May they be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

[From the Washington Post, Oct. 13, 2022]

A VITAL CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST YOU NEVER
HEARD OF HAS DIED

(By Ansley L. Quiros)

Charles Melvin Sherrod died on Tuesday at the age of 85 in Albany, Ga., a place he went to in 1961 and never left. If you are not from southwest Georgia, his name might not be familiar. But Charles Sherrod is the most important civil rights figure you've never heard of. Recovering his story offers us a chance not only to honor a civil rights hero, but also to better understand the struggle for freedom to which he committed himself for so long.

Sherrod was born on Jan. 2, 1937, in Surry, Va., a place he described as a "speck." He never knew his father and was raised primarily by his grandmother within a broad community of friends and cousins. Even as a young child, Sherrod possessed a deep faith in God and a precocious theological imagination. Probably inspired by the sermons he heard at Mount Olive Baptist Church, he would often play church, preaching to other children and soon sensing a real call to the ministry. "I was preaching when I was about 6 years old," Sherrod told me, adding, "I was born a preacher." He would carry that preacher's zeal and deep moral vision with him for the rest of his life.

Despite the racism and suffocating poverty he experienced in childhood, Sherrod excelled in school. He attended the all-Black Peabody High School where he played sports, acted in plays and served as student body president and school chaplain. Sherrod then attended Virginia Union University where he earned his undergraduate degree in sociology, and then an M.A. in theology, fulfilling his ambition to become a minister.

During this time, Sherrod's Christian commitments first led him to challenge the dehumanization of Jim Crow. He participated in a "kneel-in" at a segregated church in 1954 and later joined a picket in front of Thalheimer's department store. "I saw the [lynching] rope in my mind," he confessed,

but he also felt a sense of responsibility since people were "coming to me, asking me for leadership."

Sherrod was a natural leader: smart and calm with a ready, broad smile.

In April 1960, his civil rights activities took Sherrod to a meeting at Shaw University, where the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) was founded. SNCC's vision—nonviolence, collective action and the pursuit of a beloved community in which all people are afforded dignity, respect and care—appealed to Sherrod's calling, both to Christianity and racial justice. After the meeting, Sherrod told Ella Baker, the veteran activist who was then the executive secretary for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference who convened the students, that "I'd be willing to be placed anywhere." She sent him to southwest Georgia, a place W.E.B. Du Bois had once called the "Egypt of the Confederacy," where he would spend the next six decades working for freedom.

Sherrod arrived in Albany as SNCC's first field secretary, "full of zeal and empty of almost everything else." But soon, he and the men and women of Albany launched a full-scale assault on Jim Crow unlike anything that had been seen before. The Albany Movement, as it became known, was a dramatic mobilization of people against racial violence and segregation.

In traditional accounts of the civil rights movement, Albany is depicted as a failure, a place where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was outmaneuvered by Police Chief Laurie Pritchett, who unlike so many other Southern lawmen, avoided the spectacle of publicly attacking protesters, and simply locked them up. This is why Sherrod's story is crucial. The Albany Movement was only a failure when considered from the perspective of King. The movement continued after King left, making important, if slow, gains. "Nothing could stop the people," Sherrod said, "certainly not jail or the threat of jail, not [even] death."

Sherrod stayed, organizing in the rural counties, though he did take a "Movement sabbatical" in 1964, heading to Union Theological Seminary in New York. He earned a Master's of Divinity and then returned to southwest Georgia, bringing White seminarians with him as part of an exchange program called the Student Interracial Ministry. For Sherrod, this was a continuation of his civil rights work. He insisted, always, that the end was not simply political but moral: a society where Black and White Americans, all created in the image of God, could live and work together in unity and peace.

In 1966, this philosophy led to a breach with SNCC, which was moving away from interracialism and Christian nonviolence and toward a more militant stance of Black Power. As Sherrod put it: "I didn't leave SNCC, SNCC left me." But he stayed with the work of racial justice—voter registration and community organizing—under the auspices of the Southwest Georgia Freedom Project.

In the late 1960s, Sherrod, along with his wife, Shirley Miller Sherrod, a Baker County native whom he married in 1966, helped found New Communities, a farming collective that was, at one point, the largest Black-owned plot of land in the United States. For decades, New Communities was the fulfillment of a dream for the Sherrods, a place where they could work the land and care for others.

But in the 1980s, when a devastating drought afflicted southwest Georgia, they were repeatedly denied relief and the farm was foreclosed on. In asking for a loan, Sherrod heard from White loan officials the same message he'd heard from segregation-

ists decades earlier when trying to vote: "Over my dead body."

Though devastated by the loss of New Communities, the Sherrods kept working faithfully in southwest Georgia. Charles Sherrod had been elected to the Albany City Council in 1976, a post he held until 1990, and also served as a prison chaplain, while Shirley worked for the Federation of Southern Cooperatives before being named the U.S. Department of Agriculture Georgia Director of Rural Development in 2009. Shirley was fired after conservative blogger Andrew Breitbart posted selectively edited, misleading video clips from a speech she gave. The White House and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack apologized to Sherrod two days after her firing.

After seeing her name dragged through the mud, Shirley got better news. She heard about a class-action lawsuit, *Pigford v. Glickman II*, alleging systemic racial discrimination toward Black farmers by the USDA. The Sherrods filed a claim and were awarded a settlement for the wrongful dispossession of New Communities. They used the money to purchase a new farm. It was a bittersweet moment.

And one that reveals how long the Black freedom struggle has been. Charles Sherrod embodied this enduring struggle over the long haul, in all of its breadth and character. From marching in the Albany Movement, being beaten and jailed in Americus, Ga., registering rural folks to vote, founding New Communities, to serving in local politics, Sherrod stayed with the cause of freedom and beloved community until his death.

His story reminds us that the work of racial justice is ongoing, that it occurs in rural spaces as well as urban ones and that it can look like political organizing, preaching, farming or just the ordinary miracle of Black love in America.

CONGRATULATING THE LADY FALCONS ON THEIR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Blair Oaks Lady Falcons on their victory in the Class 3 Girls Volleyball State Championship.

The Lady Falcons had a stellar season, with a 33–3–1 record. The Lady Falcons should be commended for all their hard work throughout the past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

Please join me in recognizing The Lady Falcons for a job well done.

RECOGNIZING HOWARD BUFFETT

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend from Decatur, Illinois, Howard Buffett, and his foundation, The Howard G. Buffett Foundation, for their work to rebuild communities and the agriculture sector in Ukraine in light of Russia's invasion of the country.

Howard has donated millions to help provide food, shelter, and transportation to the citizens of Ukraine. He has also worked with John Deere, also headquartered in Illinois, to provide storage, transportation, and equipment to farmers to bolster agriculture in Ukraine.

Ukraine is one of the top producers and exporters supplying grain and oilseed to countries across the globe. Howard's work not only helps farmers in Ukraine, but it also helps bolster food security and national security across the globe and here at home in the United States. President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy awarded Howard with the Order of Yaroslav the Wise of the V degree for his significant merits in strengthening interstate cooperation, supporting the state sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and a significant contribution to the popularization of the Ukrainian state in the world.

I admire Howard and his willingness to help others in times of crisis throughout his life, whether it's helping to address food insecurity, human trafficking, global conflicts or projects in our backyard. Howard has always been a generous neighbor and friend helping with projects throughout Macon County. I admire his work and dedication to making the world a better place.

I thank Howard for all his work and friendship.

HONORING RICH MAROVICH ON HIS 21 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague, Rep. JOHN GARAMENDI, to honor Rich Marovich for his 21 years of service with the Solano County Water Agency. Through his work as streamkeeper of Putah Creek, Mr. Marovich has shown a ceaseless dedication and passion for protecting and preserving our community's natural resources.

Mr. Marovich is originally from Palo Alto, California, and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Plant Science at the University of California, Davis. After college, he worked at the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, where he administered the department's first Endangered Species Program.

After years of drought, the Putah Creek Accord restored the natural flow of the creek; with this restoration, the need for a streamkeeper emerged and Mr. Marovich was a natural choice for the role. Putah Creek's 70-mile-long stream extends from the Cobb Mountains to the Yolo Bypass making it a major fishing and wildlife resource. To maintain the creek and protect its resources, Mr. Marovich was ever diligent as streamkeeper in improving water quality and conserving creek resources. Through his position, he also provided educational resources to the community regarding the creek's importance and collaborated with landowners along the creek on cleanup efforts.

In addition to his work preserving Putah Creek, Mr. Marovich created several environmental projects including the development of plant nurseries, food cultivation efforts, and critical fundraising campaigns for assessment programs related to the creek's condition.

The annual Winters Salmon Festival and the return of Chinook salmon to Putah Creek is a testament to the tireless efforts and unyielding zeal of Mr. Marovich throughout his career. While his service as Putah Creek's streamkeeper will surely be missed, Mr. Marovich's 21 years of service to the conservation of California's water resources has undoubtedly left a legacy that will last for many years to come. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude for Mr. Marovich's dedicated service to the preservation of Putah Creek and wish him and his family my best as he enters retirement.

CONGRATULATING MICHAEL SCHRAGE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY AT CENTIER BANK

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I take this time to congratulate Mr. Michael Schrage as he celebrates his 50th anniversary at Centier Bank. Under his outstanding leadership, Centier continues to thrive and has been recognized as the largest private, family-owned bank in the state of Indiana.

Michael Schrage, chief executive officer and chairman of the board for Centier Bank, is a truly innovative business leader. Mr. Schrage is the fourth generation of his family to own and operate the bank, which opened its first branch in 1895 as Bank of Whiting. Centier Bank has sustained immense growth throughout the years, and today the organization operates over 60 locations across Indiana.

During Mr. Schrage's tenure, Centier Bank has reached many goals and enjoyed great success, including the development of an award-winning lender division, the creation of a financial literacy program, and a significant investment in the regional economy through the establishment of banking centers in 32 northern Indiana counties. The company was named a top-ranked bank in the state of Indiana by Forbes from 2019 to 2022. Since 2007, Centier Bank has annually been named one of Indiana's best places to work, which is due to Michael's value-based work ethic that fosters a supportive and thoughtful work environment.

In the community, Michael Schrage has also proven himself to be a pillar of the community and a selfless humanitarian. He gives much of his time and efforts to numerous charity organizations including Saint Jude House, the American Red Cross, the YMCA, and the Boy Scouts of America, to name a few. For his dedication to philanthropic endeavors throughout the community of Northwest Indiana and beyond, he is to be highly commended.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Michael Schrage on his 50 years at Centier Bank. For his lifetime of remarkable leadership and his commitment to helping those in need, Michael Schrage is worthy of our gratitude and admiration.

HONORING VICKI COLBERT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the community efforts of Vicki Colbert.

For decades, Stewpot Community Services has helped people experiencing homelessness by providing shelter, clothes, and food. Recently, a new face behind the scenes has made a big impact on the community, one meal at a time. Vicki Colbert, known as Mama Vicki, wants every single meal she serves at Stewpot to be her best one yet.

"If I don't eat it and it doesn't taste right, it doesn't come out of this kitchen," she said.

Stewpot serves up to 150 hot meals to those in need, plus another 70 for Meals on Wheels. Colbert is the woman behind it all, but she didn't exactly plan to be there. The non-profit group was suddenly without a chef last fall. Colbert, who is a retired education administrator with a culinary background, just happened to be volunteering that week.

"She had already been here as a volunteer, and I heard about her in the kitchen and heard about her food, so I came just to try it out and found that she made the most delicious mac 'n cheese," said Jill Buckley, executive director at Stewpot Community Services.

It was so good, in fact, that Buckley said they asked her to stay for just one week. Nearly a year later, Colbert couldn't imagine being anywhere else.

"If I wake up every day in my right mind and I'm able to walk and talk, I need to do something grateful with that, so I come to Stewpot," Colbert said. "This is not a job for me, this is a ministry."

It may be considered a soup kitchen, but she's serving much more than your average chicken noodle soup. From Southern-fried catfish to homemade hushpuppies, Colbert is making real homecooked meals out of donated food.

"It requires someone in the kitchen, or some people in the kitchen, who can take whatever is donated and make a meal out of it. That's a skill," Buckley said.

"My sisters and brothers told me the same thing," Colbert said. "Give Vicki some sugar and flour (and) she can make a meal."

That familiar magic touch is how she earned the name Mama Vicki. Handwritten letters from some of the Meals on Wheels recipients are proof of her impact. They say how thankful they are to have her.

"I'm glad that I'm here," Colbert said, "I know it had to be a calling that I had to do." I love these people, I really do."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Vicki Colbert for her outstanding service to her community.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE GUSTAVO ANTONIO GELPÍ, JR.

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Madam Speaker, on May 12, 2021, President Biden nominated

the Hon. Gustavo Antonio Gelpí, Jr. to be a United States Circuit Judge in the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, to the seat left vacant by the late Judge Juan R. Torruella. On October 18, 2021, Judge Gelpí was confirmed by the Senate and received his judicial commission on October 19, 2021. I was honored to support his nomination.

The U.S. Circuit Court for the First Circuit hears appeals from the U.S. District Courts of Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Puerto Rico, and Rhode Island. A voice for Puerto Rico—a civil law jurisdiction unlike the remaining common law jurisdictions under the Circuit's purview—is necessary for the fair and impartial application of the law. However, although the population of Puerto Rico is more than double that of each of the other districts in the circuit except for Massachusetts, Judge Gelpí is only the second judge of Hispanic origin and only the second judge from Puerto Rico ever to serve in that Court since it was established by Congress in 1891. I am confident that Judge Gelpí will give Puerto Rico the loud and booming voice in that Court that has been silent since Judge Torruella's passing.

Judge Gelpí served in the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico for 20 years, first as a magistrate judge and then as district judge. During this time, he gained a reputation for being stern and serious, but patient and courteous; for having an even temper and a sense of humor; for having common sense and an understanding of the human condition; for being open to consider new legal theories but always following the law.

As he goes on to take his seat in the First Circuit, I would like to remind him of Justice Sandra O'Connor's admonition to judges: "Be independent, be fair, venture to be wise."

"Be independent". Decide matters that come before you impartially, on the basis of facts, in accordance with the law, and without regards to outside influence, self-interest, prejudice, or favoritism.

"Be fair". Stay true to the rule that all persons are equal before the eyes of the law. Make sure that judicial proceedings are conducted fairly and that the rights of the parties are respected. Remember that the appearance of fairness and impartiality is almost as important as the reality of it.

"Venture to be wise." Be humble and recognize that judges do not have monopoly on wisdom and that they will not get it right every time. Approach each case with an open mind and a willingness to learn. Be restrained in your decisions. Seek counsel from your fellow judges.

I thank Judge Gelpí for his years of exemplary service to the people of Puerto Rico and I am certain that, in this new stage of his career, he will continue to serve the people of Puerto Rico with outstanding merit.

I would also like to acknowledge my friend, Congresswoman NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ, who was an invaluable ally in raising bipartisan support for Judge Gelpí's appointment. Because we worked together for the benefit of Puerto Rico, irrespective of party lines, we were able to secure the nomination and confirmation of the most qualified candidate for the job.

RECOGNIZING WHEATFIELD COMMONS AS THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF TONAWANDAS' NON-PROFIT OF THE YEAR

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor and recognize Wheatfield Commons, a senior living community providing assisted living and memory care to countless families in Western New York. Since 1958, residents of Erie and Niagara County have been fortunate to receive the family-oriented services of this non-profit.

Wheatfield Commons is nestled in a park-like suburban setting with inviting grounds and courtyards. In warmer weather, residents enjoy taking in the sights from a large covered front porch. Residents are always encouraged to engage with others, and at a place like Wheatfield Commons, there are so many welcoming areas, like the beautifully decorated dining rooms and cozy fireplaces. All of this is a concerted effort to create an accommodating and enriching atmosphere where residents receive the highest quality services and care.

Senior living communities ought to offer our elderly a healthy and dynamic way of living. Undoubtedly, Wheatfield Commons offers a personal approach to delivering support and services while encouraging family members to be actively involved in the care of their loved ones. Without this mission, you can imagine the potential lack of support and interpersonal connections of senior residents and their families. Luckily, Wheatfield Commons delivers for its residents.

Organizations like Wheatfield Commons do not receive an appropriate amount of praise and attention for their critical efforts, so I am pleased that their hard work can be recognized in this way. Our communities are best served when our seniors are receiving proper care and attention.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the irreplaceable Wheatfield Commons and their devoted staff. I would like to congratulate them on this well-deserved achievement.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HISTORIC SAM SHORTLINE EXCURSION TRAIN

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Historic Savannah, Americus, & Montgomery (SAM) Shortline Excursion Train on the 20th anniversary of its first public run on October 26, 2002.

While the current SAM Shortline Excursion Train had its maiden voyage only twenty years ago, its ancestor and namesake, the Savannah, Americus, & Montgomery (SAM) Railroad Company, was founded during the 1880s by Americus attorney and banker, Colonel Samuel Hugh Hawkins. The Americus region saw its first population and construction booms with the arrival of Southwestern Railroad in the early 1850s. Following the American Civil

War, the people of southwest Georgia saw the railroad as a bright new opportunity for economic development and prosperity. But Southwestern and its lessee, the Central Railroad & Banking Company of Georgia, held a monopoly on the railroads and many in Americus began to feel the effects of exorbitant and discriminatory rates, thus contributing to a decline in local trade. When surrounding cities began proposing new rail lines to bypass Americus, Colonel Hawkins led the charge to construct new lines that would pass directly through the city, leading local investors to organize the Americus, Preston & Lumpkin Railroad (AP&L) in 1884 to ensure that Americus would continue to dominate the region's trade and continue to grow into the Twentieth Century. In 1888, Hawkins and his associates decided to extend the AP&L both east and west to create a direct route between Montgomery, Alabama, and Savannah. Later that year, the 265-mile project would be renamed as the Savannah, Americus, Montgomery Railway, known simply as "The SAM."

Before the SAM's mainline was constructed through the city, the lands surrounding Americus in Sumter County were largely undeveloped and sparsely populated. Following the boom in trade and wealth brought by the SAM, several new towns were founded throughout the region, including Richland, Cordele, Vidalia, and Lyons among others. The first new community, however, was created in Sumter County a few miles west of Americus near an older community called the Plains of Dura. Once SAM's main rail line approached the Plains of Dura community, residents of surrounding settlements began moving closer to the railroad and eventually chartered the town of Plains—the renowned home of famous Georgia peanut farmer and our 39th President, Jimmy Carter. Once fully developed, SAM Railway became the lifeblood of the city of Americus and spurred a second construction and population boom that would reshape the city as a powerful economic nexus in the region. During this period, the city saw the founding of several vital local businesses, such as the Americus Guano Company, the Americus Oil Company, the Americus Illuminating and Power Company, the Americus Construction Company, the Americus Grocery Company, as well as the town's crowning achievement—the Windsor Hotel.

Despite its transformational success, SAM was not immune from the economic struggles of the era, and in 1893, amid a financial panic, Colonel Hawkins and his associates were forced to sell their beloved SAM Railway Company to John Skelton of Richmond, Virginia who would reorganize the company as the Georgia and Alabama Railway in 1895. Samuel Hawkins went on to lose nearly \$1 million of his own money in an unsuccessful attempt to keep the railroad under local control. Nevertheless, the railroad he initially founded proved vital to the southwest Georgia community as it provided jobs, trade, freight transportation, as well as an economic engine for the budding towns and cities across southwest Georgia and Alabama.

At the start of the Twenty-first Century, local residents of the southwest Georgia region developed plans to revive the former SAM Railway as a passenger excursion route. By 2002, the excursion founders had recovered and refurbished several state-owned vintage railcars to seat up to eighty people. They rebranded

the railway as the Historic SAM Shortline Railroad to honor the rich history that shaped the region. The reborn SAM Shortline Excursion Train follows the legendary route from Cordele to Plains and gives riders scenic views of cotton fields, pecan groves, and peanut farms while riding in climate-controlled, train cars to visit sites such as the Georgia Rural Telephone Museum, Historic Downtown Americus, President Jimmy Carter's hometown of Plains and his boyhood home and farm in Archery, Georgia.

Being Georgia's only rolling state park, the excursion train hosted an impressive passenger load in 2021, even despite the COVID-19 pandemic. That year alone, the SAM Shortline Excursion Train boarded 17,000 passengers who were able to experience the fascinating history of President Carter's several political campaigns and life, as well as a glimpse of rural life at the turn of the Twentieth Century. The SAM Shortline also offers special rides throughout the year, including Halloween trick-or-treat trains, Christmas trains, dinner trains, and fundraisers, marking it a community treasure to be enjoyed by all throughout the year. The success and immense popularity of the excursion train resulted in an impressive economic impact of \$2,697,496.00 across Sumter and Crisp Counties in 2021.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian; and me, along with the more than 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District, in recognizing the Historic SAM Shortline Railroad for twenty wonderful years of bringing people closer to southwest Georgia's beautiful landscape and rich history.

CONGRATULATING THE LADY
COMETS ON THEIR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Fatima Lady Comets on their victory in the Class 3 Softball State Championship.

These young women had a stellar season, ranked number 1 with a 33-3 record. In their championship game they overcame a 10-run deficit to claim their title. The Lady Comets should be commended for all their hard work throughout the past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

Please join me in recognizing the Lady Comets for a job well done.

LIFE AND LEGACY OF MONSIGNOR
MICHAEL DOYLE

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, Monsignor Michael Doyle was originally born in County Longford, Ireland and raised on a farm in Rosduff. He immigrated to the United

States of America in 1959 after becoming ordained into the priesthood in Wexford, Ireland and dedicated his life to the pursuit of helping others and embodied the principals of transformational love.

Upon his arrival as a member of the Diocese of Camden, Monsignor Doyle taught within the high school and had a hand in the success of fellow Camden city parishes such as St. Joseph's, St. George, and St. Joan of Arc. A graduate of Villanova University, Monsignor Doyle earned a master's degree in Education in 1962 and received an honorary doctorate in Humanities from his alma mater in 2007. He was installed as a priest in 1974 and was chosen and appointed as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish where he continued to serve for over fifty years.

Monsignor Michael Doyle was also a celebrated poet, pacifist, and provocateur. In 1971, he was a member of the Camden 28, a group of anti-Vietnam War activists who plotted to raid the Camden draft board office until the plan was revealed to the authorities. Doyle and three other Catholic priests were eventually acquitted of their charges. In addition, Doyle helped plant crosses memorializing Camden City's murder victims in front of Camden City Hall when he felt more could be done to stem rampant violence. His activism extends beyond nonviolence, Monsignor Michael Doyle is a champion of education, improved medical care, community beautification, and affordable housing.

Monsignor Doyle has been profiled by media outlets and documentaries for his work in the southern part of the City of Camden throughout the decades. As a literary force, Monsignor Doyle inspired residents both in and outside of the City of Camden through his sermons, poetry, and desire to improve the social justice landscape until retiring from active ministry in 2020.

Following his service through Sacred Heart Parish and the Camden Diocese, Monsignor Michael Doyle remained steadfast in his efforts to better the lives of those around him. He could be found actively writing letters to parishioners in efforts to fundraise for local school children.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Monsignor Michael Doyle and his lifelong commitment as a dedicated humanitarian and advocate for peace within the community.

HONORING REV. CALVIN EARL
HAWKINS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a man of many talents, Rev. Calvin Earl Hawkins. Rev. Hawkins is compassionate, and a dedicated public servant devoted to the betterment of the community and success of others.

Rev. Hawkins was born on September 25, 1972, in Water Valley, Mississippi, to the parents of the late John and Earline Wright Hawkins. As the last child of nine children, Calvin graduated high school then continued his education at Northeast Mississippi Community College in Booneville, Mississippi, then on to

Mississippi State University, in Starkville, Mississippi. While at Mississippi State University, Rev. Hawkins obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Educational Psychology, Education, and with a focus in Individual and Family Studies.

Over the years, Rev. Hawkins has been intricately involved within the community and has demonstrated immense dedication to the families and children throughout the state of Mississippi. Rev. Hawkins is a lifeline for many students in Mississippi and has started his 28th year as an educator. Rev. Hawkins is very supportive in the field of education. He is an educator at heart. His work experience includes but is not limited to an Educational/Disability Specialist, Center Administrator, and Regional Administrator for Mississippi Action for Progress, Inc.

As a Regional Administrator for Head Start, Rev. Hawkins served the counties of Yalobusha, Chickasaw and Calhoun City. He was able to provide services for an infinite number of children who needed a head start in life. Rev. Hawkins currently serves as the Coordinator for Student Services for the Coffeeville School District. Within his work career, Rev. Hawkins has worked with students between the ages of 3 years old to post-secondary status. He has consistently been an advisor and vessel for students by teaching them problem-solving and coping skills while simultaneously verbalizing to them to never give up. It has always been common practice for Rev. Hawkins to rally and encourage students with a Pep talk letting them know, "What God has for you is for you" and always providing individuals with the assurance of whatever comes their way, they can make it.

In 2011, Rev. Hawkins accepted the calling into the ministry. He is a licensed and ordained pastor. Rev. Hawkins began pastoring his first church in 2006 as the Senior Pastor of United Missionary Baptist Church in Coffeeville, Mississippi.

Rev. Hawkins serves his community in the following capacities: President of the Blackmur Library, member of the 100 Black Men of Grenada County, Mississippi, Congress President of the Mt. Moriah District Association, National Library Association, and a member of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. Rev. Hawkins past membership includes the Rotary club and Water Valley Main Street Association. He is the Founder of the "Increase Your Knowledge Group, LLC," a non-profit organization to increase the knowledge of potential information within the community. In 2005, Rev. Hawkins was appointed by the Yalobusha County Sheriff and Board of Supervisor as the Chaplain for the Yalobusha County Detention Center.

Rev. Hawkins is now a published author of the book titled, *Under the Dusty Sands*. This book is an African American history book highlighting Yalobusha County, Mississippi from 1870 to 1970. Rev. Hawkins gathered history to recognize the African American citizen that paved the way in Yalobusha County. He is preparing to publish his second book, which will include the history of the oldest African American school in Yalobusha County entitled "Dear Ole Davidson". In 2022, Rev. Hawkins was recognized as an African American historian in Yalobusha County.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Rev. Calvin Earl Hawkins for his dedication and passion for his community and the State of Mississippi.

HONORING WILLIAM “BILL”
COTTER

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, today I recognize William “Bill” Cotter, who will retire this year after 23 years of service to the economic development authority for Hancock County, Mississippi—home to Port Bienville, Stennis International Airport, and NASA’s Stennis Space Center.

Bill has served with the Port and Harbor Commission for over two decades in various roles, including Stennis International Airport Director, agency chief operations officer, and Chief Executive Officer since 2021.

During his tenure as airport director, Cotter helped guide Stennis Airport’s recovery from Hurricane Katrina and coordinated the airfield activities during the BP Deepwater Horizon response. Since 2005, he has overseen nearly \$40 million in capital improvements at the airport, including the construction of the air traffic control tower, aircraft hangars, and the terminal building. As COO, Port Bienville Industrial Park’s existing docks were refurbished and improved, and construction began on a new 600-foot dock, which will be completed later this year.

Among other accomplishments, Cotter was instrumental in attracting a line of companies that resulted in Tyonek Service Group’s operation in Hancock County. This Department of Defense contractor performs maintenance, repair, and overhaul operations for military aircraft. It is one of 30 companies at Port Bienville and the Stennis International Airport that together employ nearly 1,000 people.

Upon retirement after a lifelong career in aviation and economic development, he and his wife, Suzanne Corso, plan on spending time with their three children William “Billy”, Melissa “Mimi” and Nicholas “Nick,” and their seven grandchildren, Mera, Gencie, Graysion, William, Mia, Micah, and Kiara.

Bill has continuously gone above and beyond to leave things better than he found them. Please join me in thanking him for his outstanding accomplishments and dedication to making Hancock County one of Mississippi’s most treasured counties. On behalf of South Mississippi, we wish you and Suzanne a long and healthy retirement.

CONGRATULATING THE ROCK ISLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY ON 150 YEARS OF ENRICHING AND CONNECTING THE CITY OF ROCK ISLAND

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Rock Island Public Library on its 150th year of serving residents of Rock Island, Illinois, and the Quad-Cities region.

Founded on November 25, 1872, upon the passage of the Illinois Library Act, the Rock Island Public Library has been a core institution and forum for learning for all to utilize and

enjoy. This crucial public resource prides itself on its longevity and positive impact on its surroundings, and it has always helped to connect residents to information, services, events and each other. The renewed commitment of the Rock Island Public Library to offer equitable access to facilities and vibrant spaces where all are welcome, as well as a mandate to foster lifelong learning and education, aids in driving innovation across our region. It is a valuable member of Illinois’ exemplary public library system.

It is because of vital pillars of the community, such as the Rock Island Public Library, that I am especially proud to represent Illinois’ 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again, formally recognize the Rock Island Public Library on its 150th anniversary.

CONGRATULATING THE BULLDOGS
ON THEIR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Ft. Zumwalt South Bulldogs on their victory in the Class 3 Girls Soccer State Championship.

The Bulldogs took home their second consecutive Class 3 title. The Bulldogs should be commended for all their hard work throughout the past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

Please join me in recognizing the Bulldogs for a job well done.

HONORING COLONEL (RET) ROY
GEORGE PLUMMER

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a loving husband, dedicated father, distinguished Army Chaplain, humble pastor, veterans advocate, tireless community servant and my friend of longstanding, Colonel (Ret) Roy George Plummer. Sadly, Colonel Plummer transitioned from labor to reward on Sunday, October 23, 2022. A celebration of his life was held on Thursday, November 3, 2022 at the Columbus, Georgia Civic Center.

Roy George Plummer was born on February 6, 1938 in Saint Andrew Parish, Jamaica in the West Indies to the late Wilfred Plummer and Lucille Annita Plummer. He was reared by his grandmother, “Mama”, in May Pen, Jamaica, attended school there and became a lightweight boxer in his youth before traveling to England and then to the United States. He attended Azusa Pacific University in California where he studied pre-law, but during his undergraduate studies he heard the Lord’s call to Christian ministry which took him to the Phillips School of Theology in Atlanta, Georgia where he earned a Master of Divinity in 1969.

On January 4, 1971 Roy joined the United States Army as a Chaplain where for 23 years

he served the spiritual and pastoral needs of countless United States Army military and civilian personnel and their families, including at Atterberry Chapel in Frankfurt, Germany and Sightseeing Road Chapel at Fort Benning, Georgia. He attended and completed Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College. In 1994 he completed his active duty career as Chief of Chaplains and Post Command Chaplain at Fort Benning, retiring at the rank of Colonel.

Also in 1994, always “pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus”, Colonel Plummer founded and became Senior Pastor and CEO of Faith Tabernacle Community Church, an active and growing congregation in Southeast Columbus.

Then, in 1998 while maintaining his pastoral ministry, he became Director of Army Instruction for the Muscogee County School District JROTC where he was responsible for 8 high school JROTC programs and 4 other County JROTC programs. He worked tirelessly to create a formidable program and under his leadership it grew from 400 to 1200 cadets and the Muscogee County School District JROTC program earned GHSA State Rifle Championships, State level awards in Drill Team and Raider competitions and honorable recognition in the annual JROTC Academic Bowl.

Known for his eloquent golden baritone voice with a pronounced British accent, Colonel Plummer was prolific in his community service. He was Chaplain for Rotary International District 6900; served on the boards of St. Francis Hospital Foundation; Columbus Hospice; United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley; Boy Scouts of America and the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce. He served as Assistant Professor in the Department of Graduate Studies at Columbus State University, holding Masters degrees in Human Relations and Group Process; Guidance and Counseling; Pastoral Care and a Doctorate of Divinity.

Colonel Plummer’s solid educational background, coupled with his compassion for “the least of these” inspired him to establish the Plummer Home for homeless and disenfranchised military veterans, providing support and resources to veterans who encountered severe challenges in their transition from military to civilian life. His legacy in the fight to eradicate homelessness among veterans and for expansion of veterans benefits will long be remembered.

Colonel Roy G. Plummer achieved countless successes in his life. But none would have been possible without the grace of God and the love and support of his Wife, Kenyetta, his 4 daughters and his 7 grandchildren.

On a personal note, Roy was my friend. He always supported and encouraged me with wise counsel and sage advice. His prayers were genuine. His friendship was golden. He will be sorely missed, but the world is better because of him.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join my wife, Vivian and me, along with the more than 730,000 people of the 2nd District in honoring and celebrating the life and legacy of Colonel (Ret) Roy George Plummer for his service to God, his Country and humanity and in extending our deepest condolences to his family,

friends and all who mourn his loss. May they be consoled and comforted by their faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

HONORING ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a staple of the City of Vicksburg and Warren County community, St. Mary Catholic Church. St. Mary Catholic Church and its members have shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and a desire to serve the Vicksburg/Warren community.

For 116 years, St. Mary Catholic Church has been a source of spiritual guidance and education for African American Catholics in Vicksburg and Warren County. Its importance to the community will be remembered on Oct. 16th with a ceremony dedicating two historic markers—one for the church and another for the elementary and high school. St. Mary's parish was founded in 1906 by the Rev. Aloysius Heick. The first church was on Holly Street. The Sisters of Mercy provided the altar for the first church, the candlesticks, and the priest's vestments; and the priests at St. Paul Catholic Church provided a place for Heick to stay until St. Mary's moved to its present location at Main and Second North streets later in 1906, which is when an elementary and high school was also started. The present church was built in 1923.

The congregation at St. Paul's collected \$279.80 that they donated to Heick to buy the land, and philanthropist Catherine Drexel, who was later canonized as a saint, provided half of the money necessary to get the property.

A two-story Greek revival building was built in 1908 and was later used for the high school. The nuns who taught the children at St. Mary's were members of the Sisters of the Holy Spirit.

The elementary school closed in 1970, and the high school closed in 1964. When the schools closed the children who wanted to continue attending Catholic school had to go to Yazoo City.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing St. Mary Catholic Church and its members for their passion and dedication to offer the spiritual and educational needs of the City of Vicksburg community.

RECOGNIZING CAROL TALLICHET AS THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF TONAWANDAS' CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize Carol Tallichet as the Chamber of Commerce of Tonawandas' Citizen of the Year. Carol is not only a distinct local business owner, but a dedicated leader in the Buffalo community.

As a North Tonawanda native, Carol has made a lasting impact on her hometown through her community service and local outreach efforts. Her recent membership into the Erie-Niagara Sunrise Exchange Club has included involvement in campaigns such as "Give a Kid a Hug to Hold," which provides pillows to abused children. Carol's contributions also extend to the Meals on Wheels non-profit where she selflessly printed thank you gifts for volunteers and clients of the organization.

In addition to her community service efforts, Carol also serves 22 communities across New York and Florida through the restaurants she owns with her husband. Her entrepreneurial efforts are worth celebrating, as her local Tonawanda restaurant, Lumberjack's, celebrates its tenth anniversary. These family-owned restaurants are staffed by local students and teachers, two groups for which Carol continues to give back. Bottle returns from her local restaurants are donated to Cardinal O'Hara High School in Tonawanda, New York. Not only does this donation expand the arts budget at this high school, but it also provides enough money for their music department to purchase new instruments they otherwise could not afford.

Today, I ask that members of the Chamber of Commerce of Tonawanda and citizens, alike, join me in expressing our gratitude for Carol Tallichet and her unwavering commitment to her community. Her continual efforts are not only inspiring to the Buffalo community, but to all entrepreneurs and young individuals. Carol is undoubtedly deserving of the Citizen of the Year award, and I thank her for her commitment to the Western New York region.

HONORING CABARRUS COUNTY COMMISSIONER DIANE HONEYCUTT FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Cabarrus County Commissioner Diane Honeycutt for her many years of service to our community.

Commissioner Honeycutt has long provided exemplary leadership and initiative as an active member of our community. In addition to serving on the Cabarrus County Board of Commissions since 2014, she has held many other distinguished positions, including the prominent roles of former Chair of the Cabarrus County Chamber of Commerce in 2001 and former President of the Concord Rotary Club in 2004. On the Board of Commissioners, Commissioner Honeycutt served as Vice Chair from 2016 to 2021. She currently serves on the Department of Health of Human Services Committee, the Senior Advisory Council, and the Emergency Management Committee. On account of her dedicated public service and success as a business leader in our community, Commissioner Honeycutt has received numerous awards and accolades. Perhaps most impressively, she was presented the Distinguished Rotarian of the Year award in 2001, the Cabarrus Chamber

Small Business of the Year award in 2017, and the Cabarrus Chamber Volunteer Business of the Year award in 2018.

Commissioner Honeycutt will retire from her current position on the Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners at the end of the year. Over the course of her career, she has demonstrated the highest level of commitment to her community through her hard work and leadership. She stands as an exemplary figure for all in public service to emulate, and I join our entire community in gratitude as we honor her extraordinary career.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring Commissioner Diane Honeycutt for her career of exemplary servitude to her community.

HONORING THE 2022 MARION TECHNICAL COLLEGE ALUMNI HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, Marion Technical College in Marion, Ohio, will hold a ceremony on Thursday, November 17, to mark the induction of its 2022 Alumni Hall of Fame class. I am honored to commend to the House this year's inductees:

Tammi Cowell, MTC Class of 1991, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer at Tri-Rivers Career Center.

John "Tom" Gleespen, MTC Class of 1975, President of Gleespen Engineering and Surveying.

Sue Jacob, MTC Class of 1981, retired River Valley School District educator.

Darl Snyder, MTC Class of 1983, Territory Manager for 2J Supply Company.

Selection for the Hall of Fame is a high honor accorded to only a small number of alumni each year. To be considered, alumni must demonstrate excellence in their respective professions and set a positive example for current and future MTC students.

On behalf of the people of Ohio's Fourth Congressional District, I am pleased to join in the accolades for these four distinguished alumni as they are inducted into the Marion Technical College Alumni Hall of Fame.

RETIREMENT OF MR. RAYMOND M. POCINO

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. NORCROSS. Madam Speaker, on November 9, 2022, family, friends, and colleagues gathered at the Forsgate Country Club in Monroe Township, New Jersey to celebrate and recognize the retirement of Raymond M. Pocino from the Laborers' International Union of North America.

In 1956, Raymond M. Pocino began his sixty-eight-year career as a general laborer. He has been steadfast in support of workers by developing innovative programs that support both members and their employers. Raymond M. Pocino has become a vital resource

to industry leaders, elected officials and the business community by utilizing his rich experience and knowledge of issues involving economic development to create opportunities that benefit all.

He has received several honors including the Philip Randolph Institute's Labor Award, the Alliance for Action's coveted Eagle Award for Leadership, Construction Man of the Year by the Building Contractors Association of New Jersey, Labor Leader of the Year by American ORT, New York City Chapter, as well as Labor Leader Honoree by the Newark Catholic Archdiocese.

Throughout his career Mr. Pocino served as a member of several boards including Choose New Jersey, where he consistently advocated for New Jersey as an investment location, while also serving as a member of the board for both the New York Building Congress, the New Jersey Alliance for Action, and Commissioner to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. As well, he's served as a trustee of the Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust, and the Laborers Health and Safety Trust.

We honor Mr. Raymond M. Pocino's commitment to workers and his service of five terms as Vice President and Eastern Regional Manager of the Laborers' International Union of North America.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in celebrating the career of Raymond M. Pocino and extend the greatest appreciation for his lifetime of service to organized labor.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF ROBERT L. GRAYSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated leader, Robert L. Grayson. Robert has been a champion of service and dedication to the great state of Mississippi and his community.

Robert L. Grayson, of Tutwiler, born on May 10, 1941, is remembered as a trailblazer. He graduated from West District High School in Tallahatchie County. He enlisted in the U.S. Army, served in Vietnam and 8 years in the Army Reserve. He was a U.S. Army veteran of the Vietnam War and a recipient of the Bronze, Silver Star, and the Purple Heart.

A three-decade employee with the Mississippi Department of Corrections at Parchman, MS, Mr. Grayson successfully entered the political arena in 1989 when he defeated the incumbent Ward 1 alderman in Tutwiler. He was reelected to that position in 1993. After 7 years as alderman, during which time he was elected vice mayor by his peers, in 1996 Mr. Grayson resigned to compete in a June special election for mayor. He received 53 percent of the vote in a three-man field to earn an historic first-ballot victory. As the first African American chief executive of Tutwiler, Mr. Grayson completed the remaining year of the former mayor's term, was reelected, and went on to serve 3 full terms, ending in 2009.

Mr. Grayson dedicated his life to public service, serving in multiple positions—vice chairman of the Tallahatchie Housing Board,

Council Board of Alderman of Tutwiler, Aaron E. Henry Health Center Board, and the National Conference of Black Mayors. Mr. Grayson was a founding member of the Emmett Till Memorial Commission (ETMC) of Tallahatchie County and one of the first co-chairs of that organization. In October 2007, he and fellow ETMC co-chair Betty Pearson read the "Resolution of Regret" to family members of Emmett Till during the dedication of a historical marker on the grounds of the Tallahatchie County Courthouse in Sumner.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life, legacy, and service of Robert L. Grayson for his passion and dedication to serving the Mississippi Delta and his desire to make a difference in the community, state and Nation.

RECOGNIZING LAWRENCE BACKLAS ON HIS EXCEPTIONAL COMMITMENT TO BCTGM LOCAL 36G

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lawrence Backlas. Larry has long been a steadfast supporter of unions and labor management, and he dedicated 38 years to Milkbone Bakery and the 36G Union. I am pleased to honor a man who dedicated so much of his life to improving the Western New York workforce.

Hired in 1970, Larry began his career in packaging. This included packing and transporting goods to local bakeshops for consumers to purchase. During this time, he was a part of the safety committee ensuring that all employees were cared for and protected when they came to work. He also served on the production B&R committee.

Ultimately, it was Larry's hard work and commitment to Milkbone Bakery that allowed him to progress in his career. He soon became the steward at the bakeshop before his promotion to head shop steward for the entire bakery. In this position, he was also the lead force behind the union's training committee from 1997 to 1998. Larry would go on to become the Financial Secretary and Vice President of the General Executive Board, and he took on the role of union negotiator for many critical deals in the early 2000s.

While Larry may have retired in June of 2009, he never lost his spirit and advocacy for the BCTGM Union. Today we are honoring Larry for paying 50 years of union dues—a full 13 years more than the requirement.

Since retirement, Larry has had more time to spend with his wife (and high school sweetheart), Patricia. The two are now into their 48th year of marriage. Him and his son, Lawrence, Jr., continue to share their love of martial arts. And undoubtedly, nothing will stop Larry from enjoying the outdoors, fishing, and hunting for many years to come.

I am honored to join the BCTGM Local 36G in recognizing and congratulating Lawrence Backlas on his storied career with Milkbone Bakery and his dedication to organized labor.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE J. KEVIN CHASON

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished jurist who has served as the Chief Superior Court Judge of the South Georgia Judicial Circuit for the past fourteen years, The Honorable J. Kevin Chason. His retirement as Chief Judge for the South Georgia Judicial Circuit was celebrated on October 20, 2022, at five p.m. at the United National Bank in Cairo, Georgia.

The Honorable J. Kevin Chason was born on August 15, 1962, in Grady County, Georgia, to the union of the late Judge Willard H. Chason and Carolyn H. Chason. Judge Chason began his educational journey at Georgia Southwestern College (now university) earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1984. He interned with the Georgia Supreme Court in the summer of 1985. In 1987, he would follow in his father's footsteps by earning his Juris Doctorate from the Mercer University School of Law. He would be admitted to the Superior Courts of Georgia on July 3, 1987.

After being admitted to the Superior Courts of Georgia, Kevin continued to pursue servant leadership within the legal profession as a practicing attorney before serving as Solicitor General for the State Court of Grady County from 1997 through 2008. In 2008 he ran for and was elected to the Superior Court for the South Georgia Circuit. Throughout his lifetime, Judge Chason has been revered as a steadfast mentor and has had a positive impact on his community. His stellar career on the bench has always been modeled by the motto of our great state—"Wisdom, Justice, and Moderation."

Because of his adherence to these principles, in 2017, he was appointed as Chief Judge of The South Georgia Judicial Circuit.

He also leads by example outside of the courtroom serving on the Board of Directors for the Grady Chapter of the American Heart Association, and a member of the Bainbridge College Foundation. Judge Chason also served as President and a member of the Board of Directors of Cairo Rotary Club, the Cairo and Grady County Chamber of Commerce and the American Heart Association. A man of faith, Judge Chason also serves as a member of the Administrative Board of the First United Methodist Church of Cairo.

It is because of Judge Chason's commitment to his craft and the betterment of his community that he has been recognized with numerous awards and distinctions to include the 1995 Grady County Young Professional of the Year and best judge in Grady County from 2018 through 2022 as selected by the readers of the Cairo Messenger. A Visionary leader, he was one of the founders of the United National Bank in Cairo, Georgia.

Former Congresswoman Shirley Chisolm once said that "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." Judge Chason has paid his rent many times over and continues to give back to the community that molded and shaped him.

Judge Chason has served countless people and accomplished many things throughout his

life, but none of these could have been possible without his faith, the love and support of his wife, Mary, and their two children—Sarah, a graduate of Mercer University Medical School and resident doctor in Savannah, Georgia and Jonathan, who received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Georgia and is a successful law clerk at the Georgia State-wide Business Court, following in his father's and grandfather's footsteps.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian; and me, along with the more than 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District, in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to the Honorable J. Kevin Chason upon the occasion of his retirement from his over two decades of service to his community, state and nation. His distinguished judicial service has improved the lives of countless communities across Georgia by dispensing fairness in the pursuit of justice for all.

CONGRATULATING JEFFERSON
GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Jefferson Girls Volleyball team on their victory in the Class 2 Girls Volleyball State Championship.

Jefferson Girls Volleyball made history by claiming the schools first state title in any sport. Jefferson Girls Volleyball should be commended for all their hard work throughout the past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

Please join me in recognizing Jefferson Girls Volleyball for a job well done.

HONORING THE MARTINEZ
SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Martinez Sportsmen's Club, one of the oldest sportsmen's clubs in California.

Founded in 1920, the club was originally known as the Martinez Bass Club and housed in an old ferry in the Martinez Marina. Its goal was to allow nearby residents the opportunity to meet and share their recently caught fish. The club adopted its current name in the 1930s and moved to its current location on the Embarcadero in 56.

The Martinez Sportsmen's Club consists of around 130 members, and many of them are long-time Martinez residents who have family ties to the club's early years. Previously, women were automatically given membership upon the death of their husbands. Now, the club is open to all individuals who hope to further the Club's mission of strengthening the local community.

In past years, the club has provided scholarships to local high school students, offered an

indoor rifle range, and served as a gathering place where everyone from sheriffs, judges and congressmen to local business owners and fishermen can come together. It is currently led by President Robert Hatch, Vice President Lou Rossi and Secretary/Treasurer Linda Cunha.

Madam Speaker, the Martinez Sportsmen's Club has been an instrumental institution in our community for over a century. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor it and its members here today.

RECOGNIZING DR. DENIS ROD FOR
HIS LIFE OF SERVICE TO THE
MIAMI COMMUNITY

HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. GIMENEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Denis Rod for 30 years of committed community service. A 47-year resident of the City of Miami, Dr. Rod has dedicated his adult life to serving the people of Miami.

Dr. Rod has served the Miami community in countless ways, beginning with his leadership of Miami Dade College's Amigos Club, an organization that helped international students get acclimatized to the Miami area. For 6 years Dr. Rod worked for Habitat for Humanity in Homestead and Overtown. He has served on several boards, both public and private, including the City of Miami Planning Advisory Board (as co-chair), the Miami-Dade County International Trade Consortium, and the board of CareerSource South Florida. Dr. Rod has donated bicycles for charity and actively participates in both the Latin Chamber of Commerce Holiday Food Distribution program and the St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Charity. He is a certified "Citizen on Patrol" and active in his area.

I am not alone in extending a tribute to Dr. Rod, who has received many recognitions during his career. The cities of Miami, Hialeah, Sweetwater, West Miami, South Miami, and Miami Beach, as well as Miami-Dade County, have presented Proclamations to Dr. Rod. Dr. Rod has also received the Southern Command Citizens Medal and a State of Florida Tribute from then-President of the Florida House of Representatives MARCO RUBIO. It is not an exaggeration to state that wholehearted service has characterized Dr. Rod's entire life. On behalf of all the Miamians his life has touched, I thank Dr. Rod for serving our community so well.

RECOGNIZING THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEYMOUR PLANETARIUM

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my warmest congratulations to Springfield Museums and the Seymour Planetarium on celebrating the Planetarium's 85th anniversary. This milestone achievement deserves the highest praise for

the hard work and dedication of the organization's board, staff, and everyone who has contributed to the Planetarium's success.

The doors of the Seymour Planetarium first opened in 1937. Founded by Chicopee brothers Frank, John and Stanley Korkosz, the Planetarium was created to educate and inspire, just as Frank Korkosz was inspired by the 1910 appearance of Halley's Comet, later building a rudimentary comet projector with a dynamite box and carbide lamp. Through their work, they have brought a new perspective of our universe to countless families and individuals.

Over the course of 85 years, the Planetarium has inspired generations of visitors. John Korkosz stressed the importance of curiosity and exploring the universe to better understand life on Earth. Through the creation of the Korkosz starball—the world's oldest operating, American-made star projector—he and his brothers have sparked that curiosity in countless others. The past few years, in particular, have highlighted the need for looking forward and inspiring the next generation of scientists and engineers.

Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Springfield Museums and the Seymour Planetarium again on celebrating the Planetarium's 85th anniversary and thank them for continuing to educate and inspire our communities. The Planetarium is a cherished landmark of Massachusetts' First District, and I wish them many more years of success and prosperity.

HONORING REV. ROBERT D. WELLS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great leader, a believer, an example, and a man of God, Rev. Robert D. Wells.

Rev. Wells is a native of Hinds County, MS. He was born on September 1, 1945 and the only child of the late Sister Lucy Joiner. As a child, Rev. Wells was challenged with getting money for haircuts, but instead of allowing that to be an excuse, he used the gift God gave him and became a barber and now a licensed barber stylist.

On June 12, 1965, Rev. Wells was united in Holy Matrimony to the former Paulette Rodgers. They have been blessed with 3 children: Christopher Daniel, Melissa Danyell, and Michael Daniel; and 3 grandchildren: Christopher (CJ), Carla and Camron Christian.

Rev. Wells is a member of The New Caney Creek Missionary Baptist Church in Jackson, Mississippi. He received his license to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ on May 14, 1972 and was ordained April 20, 1974,

Rev. Wells received his education in the Hinds County Public Schools. He matriculated in further studies at the Mississippi Baptist Seminary of Jackson, Mississippi, and the McKinley Theological Seminary, Inc., where he received a Bachelor of Theology Degree and a Master of Divinity Degree. Rev. Wells is also a graduate of Hinds Community College in Raymond, Mississippi.

Rev. Wells is known for serving. He served as one of the instructors for the McKinley

Theological Seminary. He has contributed to many organizations through membership, leadership (President, Supervisor), door to door evangelism, helping the needy, broadcast ministry, Instructor for 20 plus years with the Copiah County Alliance and a Pastor of four churches during his Pastorage.

Rev. Robert Daniel Wells is a born-again believer, preaching 50 years and pastoring 45 years in December 2022. Reverend and Mrs. R.D. Wells are in a united effort to bring about a spiritual change to the Glory of God.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Reverend Robert D. Wells for his outstanding services in Crystal Springs, Mississippi.

RECOGNIZING CJS ARCHITECTS ON FIVE DECADES AS A FIRM

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize CJS Architects of Buffalo on the celebration of their 50th year in business. CJS Architects is one of New York's leading architectural design firms. Throughout the Western New York region, they have been responsible for the creation of countless development projects that have contributed to the resurgence of our community. Some of which include the Buffalo Central Terminal Rehabilitation, Graycliff Restoration, 500 Seneca, and The Sinclair.

Over the past fifty years, CJS Architects has received over 100 awards for their work. Throughout the years, I have had the opportunity to partake in many of these award ceremonies in addition to being present for numerous groundbreaking and ribbon cutting events. I have seen first-hand how much time and creative design is placed into each of their projects. CJS Architects has already done so much for Buffalo's restoration efforts, and they show no sign of stopping.

This firm's awards include the Residential Award through IIDA Buffalo, Outstanding Commercial Project from Preservation Buffalo Niagara, and multiple Merit and Design Awards by the American Institute of Architects. This represents only a few of the honors for which they have been recognized over the last five decades.

Every CJS project is not only approached as an opportunity to complete a client's objectives, but also as an opportunity to add value to our community. Because of this, each of their plans is unique and individualized by the firm. CJS Architects continue to work on Buffalo River Landing, 301 Ohio Street, and Westside Bazaar on Niagara Street. Furthermore, CJS has been the visionary behind the Broadway Market Master Planning and the African American Cultural Center Visioning. All these works have given Buffalo the opportunity to highlight local restaurants and merchants.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize this firm and to commend them for their preservation and restoration of many of Buffalo's historic buildings. All of us in the Western New York community look forward to their future endeavors, and we wish to thank them for 50 years of their efforts.

CONGRATULATING THE LADY INDIANS ON THEIR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the School of Osage Lady Indians on their victory in the Class 2 Girls Golf Championship.

The Lady Indians made history, taking home the first state title in the history of School of the Osage. The Lady Indians should be commended for all their hard work throughout the past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

Please join me in recognizing The Lady Indians for a job well done.

RECOGNIZING ANNIE "ANN" H. FLOWERS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a devoted wife, dedicated mother, outstanding educator, and friend to humankind, Mrs. Annie "Ann" H. Flowers. An event celebrating her 80th birthday was held on Saturday, October 22, 2022, at 2 p.m. at the New Grady Baptist Association meeting in Cairo, Georgia.

Mrs. Flowers is a native of Decatur County, Georgia. She has used her life's work to uplift humanity through selfless service. She dedicated thirty-two years of her life to molding and shaping our most precious resources, our young people. Her career in education is indeed a storied one. During her career in education with the Grady County School system, she served in numerous capacities to include Classroom Teacher, Math Coordinator, Title V. Director, Assistant Principal, and Principal. Never one to rest on her laurels after retirement, she came back to serve as an Interim Principal for one year.

It has been said that "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." Mrs. Flowers has paid her rent and she has paid it well. Her commitment to service is evident in all of the different professional causes that she has given her time and treasures. Those include: The Grady County Retired Educators, Georgia Association of Education Leaders, Georgia and National Associations of Education, National Middle School Association, National Executive Female Organization, Southwest Regional Director of Middle School Principals, Governor's School Leadership Institute, Georgia Council of School performance and Georgia Department of School Improvement Specialists.

The great Agricultural Chemist George Washington Carver once said that "How far one goes in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the strong and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these." Mrs. Flowers has used her life's work both profes-

sionally and socially to minister to people from all walks of life. She is the Founder of the Boys to Men Mentoring Programs, a member of the Board of Directors for Grady County United Way, Friends of Roddenberry Memorial Library, The Thomas Grady Service Center Board, Southwest Georgia Board of Easter Seals of Grady County, and Georgia Pines Community Service Board. She has also served on the Advisory Board for the Head Start of Grady County. Mrs. Flowers is also a life member of the Order of Eastern Star Chapter No. 36.

Mrs. Flowers has also received numerous awards and honors during her life, most notably the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major for Peace Award and has the distinction of being the First African American Principal in Grady County, Georgia after integration.

Mrs. Flowers is a woman after God's own heart. She is a member of the Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in Cairo, Georgia, where she is a Deaconess, a member of the Minister's wives Ministry and Pastor's Aide Ministry. She truly embodies the words of Acts 9:36: "She was abounding in good deeds and acts of charity."

Mrs. Flowers has accomplished many things in her life, but none of these would have been possible without her faith, the love and support of her husband, The Reverend Henry C. Flowers, Jr. and their three children.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian and me along with the more than 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Mrs. Annie "Ann" H. Flowers on the occasion of her 80th Birthday and her phenomenal service to God and Humankind. May God continue to bless her and her family.

HONORING TOM ECOFF

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a fearless and courageous Hoosier and American Hero, Tom Ecoff.

Born on October 23, 1922, Mr. Ecoff enlisted in the United States Armed Forces at just 19-years old. He served in the 82nd Airborne as a paratrooper.

Mr. Ecoff jumped into Saint-Mere-Eglise on June 6, 1944—parachuting into Normandy on D-Day and fought in several integral battles across Europe that decided the course of the war. Mr. Ecoff ran into gunfire to save his fellow soldiers on the battlefield.

Mr. Ecoff is both a Bronze Star and Purple Heart Recipient for his bravery during World War II.

After being honorably discharged from the United States Army, Mr. Ecoff continued to chase the American Dream—creating a highly-successful trucking company back at home in Indiana.

This year, Mr. Ecoff celebrated his one-hundredth Birthday. He attributes this longevity to his loving family of four children, seven grandchildren and great-grandchildren, stating "I live every day for my family. That's the reason I'm here. If I didn't have them, life would not be interesting enough to continue. I give them all the credit for my hundred years."

Madam Speaker, our nation is forever indebted to veterans of the Greatest Generation, like Tom Ecoff, for their service and sacrifice.

On behalf of Indiana's Sixth Congressional District and the United States House of Representatives—I thank Tom Ecoff for his service. May God Bless him and God Bless America.

RECOGNIZING DOROTHY “DOT” THEODORE

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dot Theodore, who concluded her service as a trustee on the board of the Castro Valley Unified School District (CVUSD) on November 9, 2022, after 8 years of service.

After receiving her Bachelor of Science in Biology from San Francisco State University in 1998, Dot began to work in biotech research in the Bay Area. In 2004, Dot and her husband chose to lay down roots in Castro Valley. Dot then continued her education and obtained a Master's in Public Health in 2013 from the University of California, Berkeley. Currently, she serves as the interim director for the Alameda County Public Health Department's Office of HIV Care, where she provides support for local organizations that serve low-income individuals living with HIV.

With 2 children attending Castro Valley Unified schools, Dot became heavily involved in school affairs. From 2011 to 2016, Dot served as PTA President for Castro Valley Elementary. In 2012, she served as an executive board member for Creekside Middle School Parents Club. Dot has also served on CVUSD's Local Control Accountability Plan Steering Committee and recently served as the Head of the Safe Routes to School program at Castro Valley Elementary. In that role, she coordinated events promoting active transportation and safety for students. She also participates with Bike/Walk CV to add more sidewalks in Castro Valley.

In 2014, Dot was elected as a board trustee for CVUSD and re-elected in 2018, serving as board president until her departure. While on the board, Dot worked to embrace the growing diversity of the district and ensure students could access a high-quality education at all grade levels.

She has overseen new dual immersion programs, the creation of an Engineering pathway for students, placement of social workers and counseling support for elementary students, and the implementation of culturally responsive curricula for educators. Dot was also instrumental in creating wellness centers for students at Castro Valley High School and both Canyon and Creekside middle schools through Measure G Bond funds.

For 8 years, Dot has remained a fierce advocate for the students of CVUSD and worked to ensure that the district lived up to its “All means all” motto. Her presence will be missed on the board, but I am sure she will continue to fight for our children. I join the community in celebrating her numerous achievements on the board and wish her rest and relaxation with her children, Ben, and Daphne, as she starts her new chapter.

CONGRATULATING THE CRU- SADERS ON THEIR STATE CHAM- PIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the St. Dominic Crusaders on their victory in the Class 4 Girls Soccer State Championship.

The Crusaders took home their second consecutive Class 4 title. The Crusaders should be commended for all their hard work throughout the past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

Please join me in recognizing the Crusaders for a job well done.

HONORING THE MISSISSIPPI RAPID RESPONSE COALITION

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Mississippi Rapid Response Coalition. The coalition has gone beyond the call of duty to ensure that communities in Mississippi are taken care of during critical times.

The Mississippi Rapid Response Coalition was formed in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. MRRC has since responded to crises caused by climate change and failing infrastructure across the state of Mississippi. The Mississippi Rapid Response Coalition, also called “The Coalition,” is comprised of over 30 organizations around the state of Mississippi. The organizations that make up the Coalition were 1st responders during COVID and after the Winter Storm of 2021, providing needed resources to Mississippians in need.

The Coalition has continued to be a rapid response provider during this latest crisis affecting Jackson, MS, providing drinking water across Jackson's 7 wards and assisting those in need. MRRC has distributed thousands of cases of water to Jackson residents and provided other necessary services, and I am forever grateful for their work.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Mississippi Rapid Response Coalition for their service to the citizens of Mississippi during their time of distress.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. VICTOR MARVAR, SR.

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the outstanding life and legacy of Mr. Victor Vadrian Marvar, Sr. who passed away on September 3rd, 2022, at 96 years old. This

great man left behind a powerful legacy as a businessman, philanthropist, and founder of the Mississippi Republican Party on the Gulf Coast.

Born on July 27, 1926 in Biloxi, Mississippi. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the United States Merchant Marine Academy. He received a Commission as a second Lieutenant in the U.S. Naval Reserve. In 1950, he was called into the U.S. Navy to serve in the Korean War aboard the USS *Paricutin*. After his military service career ended in 1952, he began working the family seafood processing business. He was even elected President of the American Shrimp Processors Association.

Mr. Marvar was dedicated to the Mississippi Gulf Coast Republican party and served three terms as Harrison County Republican Party Chairman and one term representing the State of Mississippi on the Republican National Committee. He was a delegate to several county, state and national Republican conventions and was a Mississippi Presidential Elector for President Richard M. Nixon and President George W. Bush. Former Governor Haley Barbour awarded him the Mississippi Medal of Service in recognition of his work to improve the community and the state.

Mr. Marvar was elected to the Hancock Bank Board of Directors where he served on several committees for 25 years.

Victor was married to his wife, Gayle, for 64 years and together they had 6 children. He and his wife established a scholarship at the University of Southern Mississippi, School of Nursing. They also established scholarships at the Mississippi College School of Law, Vanderbilt University MBA School, and West Virginia Wesleyan University. They established a fund to support the operation of the Learning Disability Department at Nativity B.V.M. Elementary School in Biloxi.

Mr. Marvar spent a great many years contributing to his community as a businessman, philanthropist, and family man. He was an outstanding citizen of the Biloxi, Mississippi, and the United States, and his contributions stand as a reminder to all of us that it is better to serve than to be served. It is my honor and privilege to recognize Mr. Victor Vadrian Marvar, Sr.

God Bless and Semper Fi.

INTRODUCTION OF THE JUSTICE FOR SHIREEN ACT

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce the Justice for Shireen Act today. I thank my House and Senate colleagues that joined me to call on the FBI and State Department, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and Director of National Intelligence, to submit a report to Congress on the death of American-Palestinian Journalist, Shireen Abu Akleh. I send my deep condolences to the Abu Akleh family for this terrible killing and stand with them to demand justice and accountability.

Shireen Abu Akleh, an American-Palestinian journalist, was killed on May 11, 2022. She was killed wearing a clearly marked press vest

on assignment, reporting on a military raid which took place in the occupied city of Jenin. In May, I led a letter, signed by 58 Members of Congress, to the FBI and State Department calling for an independent and open investigation led by her home country, the United States and 24 Senators have echoed this request. It has been six months since we have sent this letter. Today, I continue to call for answers into the death of Shireen Abu Akleh.

As an American, Ms. Abu Akleh was entitled to the full protections afforded to U.S. citizens living abroad. As Members of Congress, we need to uphold the values that our Nation was founded on, including human rights, equality for all, and freedom of speech. As Members of Congress, we have a duty to protect Americans reporting abroad. An Israeli investigation has concluded, finding that it was indeed an Israel Solider that shot Ms. Abu Akleh in her line of duty. It is the responsibility of the U.S. to learn all the unanswered questions leading up to, during and after the fatal shot that killed Ms. Abu Akleh. Additionally, this bill requires an identification of any United States defense materials or services that were implicated in the death of Ms. Abu Akleh. No U.S. weapons and military services by the U.S. should be used to kill Americans on foreign soil. American taxpayers should not be paying for any violation of human rights abroad.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in calling for justice and accountability for Shireen Abu Akleh.

HONORING THE VALLEJO SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Vallejo Symphony in recognition of their 90th anniversary.

The Vallejo Symphony was founded in 1931, in the midst of the Great Depression. Led by conductor Julius Weyand, the original group consisted of 60 musicians. Hoping to uplift their struggling community, local leaders were able to raise the funds necessary to bring world class music to their town.

Over the years, the Vallejo Symphony has seen tremendous growth, both in funding and notoriety. The Vallejo Symphony Association was founded in 1951, and acclaimed conductor Dr. George Wargo began his two-decade tenure as the orchestra's leader. During this time, the Vallejo Symphony performed both Wargo's Symphony in G and Concerto for Strings.

Upon Wargo's departure, David Ramadanoff, a former associate conductor of the San Francisco Symphony, became the symphony's new leader, guiding it through three decades of excellence. Today, the Vallejo Symphony is led by Marc Taddei, Music Director of Orchestra Wellington.

In addition to traditional concerts, the Vallejo Symphony routinely welcomes distinguished guest artists from around the globe in an effort to bring diverse music to Solano County residents. In 1993, they performed with the Akashi Choral Society in Japan for a celebration of the relationship between Akashi and Vallejo.

Additionally, the Vallejo Symphony has sent musicians to perform in public schools, engaging and inspiring countless young students via classical music.

Madam Speaker, the Vallejo Symphony has filled our community with rich, varied, and world-class music for nearly a century. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that it is honored here today.

CONGRATULATING TRIGG LINDAHL ON HIS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Trigg Lindahl on his victory in the Class 2 Boys Golf Championship.

Trigg made history, becoming the first individual Class 2 Golf State Champion to come out of Hermann High. Trigg should be commended for all his hard work throughout the past year and for bringing home the state championship to his school and community.

Please join me in recognizing Trigg Lindahl for a job well done.

HONORING LINDA CITCHENS DOWNING

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable hero, Mrs. Linda Citchens Downing.

Linda Citchens Downing is the daughter of the late Mary Alice Catchings-Broom and Eulis Broom, Sr. Born in Clarksdale, Mississippi, she grew up the middle child of 11 siblings. Her mother, being the sole provider for her large family, instilled in her the qualities of discipline, hard work, and dedication to duty. Determined to set her children up for a better life, Mary worked at the Coco-Cola Bottling Company and cleaned homes on Saturday to provide for them. What the family lacked in material possessions, they made up for in love and faith. Although Mary only had an 8th grade education, she wanted to insure her children had more access to education than she had.

After graduating high school, Linda yearned for just that goal. At the time, her goal was to become a lawyer who provided legal representation for the underserved; however, that course was not to be. With little money and lacking the type of support necessary for law school, she would find an alternate route to achieving her goal of helping people, and that was via education. Her older sisters had graduated from college and become teachers, and Linda decided to follow suit.

She attended Coahoma Junior College, now Coahoma Community College, where she served as Miss Coahoma Junior College in 1978 to 1979. In March of 1979, she got married, and in May of that same year, she graduated with high honor from CJC. A year later, she had her first child. Being a wife, mother,

and attending college was difficult for a 20-year-old, so Linda decided to quit Delta State University when she became pregnant with her second daughter. She pressed on, though, enrolling at Mississippi Valley State University soon afterwards. Not having transportation, she commuted with one of the professors, often taking her baby to class with her.

When one of her professors told her she wouldn't be able to finish her degree with two babies, Linda became even more resolved to get the job done and achieve her overarching goals of service and support to the community. Her second daughter was born in December of 1981; by December of 1982, she had completed her Bachelor's Degree, Cum Laude. She began her teaching career at Oakhurst Elementary School, and in the following years, she taught the gamut of elementary education, all while inspiring and motivating her students to think bigger and to desire more. She enrolled in graduate school at Delta State, receiving a Master's Degree in Elementary Education. Shortly thereafter, she moved up to lead teacher. Another stint at Delta State produced a Master's degree in counseling, after which she was hired as a middle school counselor, performing in that capacity for 7 years. Conrad Hilton said, "Success seems to be connected with action. Successful people keep moving." And that's what Linda did. She returned to school to study administration, and to that end, she was hired as an elementary school principal. When that proved successful, she was promoted to middle school principal.

She served as principal of Oakhurst Middle School for 7 years. During her tenure, she changed the culture of the school in academics and athletics and brought it to successful status. Linda implemented numerous incentives such as Teacher of the Year (the teacher with the most improved scores in standardized tests would receive \$500 paid by the principal); Most Improved of Teacher (the most improved teacher would receive \$250 paid by the principal); as well as financial incentives (donated by stakeholders) for students scoring proficient and advanced on state tests, and in the process, increased parental and community support by 75 percent. As a result of her achievement as a principal, in 2010, Linda was hired as the Secondary Curriculum Director of the Clarksdale Public School District. In 2016, Linda earned a Specialist degree in administration and supervision from Arkansas State University. Finally, after 32 years of being guided by the principles her mother imparted in her, she retired.

Linda only remained out of education for a year, returning because of her love and respect for her vocation and the positive effects of her actions on the world around her. Currently, she serves as the Chief Academic Office of the Quitman County School District, where she works full time on a part-time salary. Despite this, she has a hand in almost all aspects of education in the district: from site visits to new teacher training, to the organization of large-scale events on the district's behalf. She does what she does because of love; she loves the students, the teachers, the parents, and she is committed to education.

At the age of 8, Linda stated cooking for her younger brothers and sisters. This inspired a lifelong love of cooking and baking. As part owner of 7Sisters Catering, she regularly donates her food and services to church, school,

and community events. She has received the Epsilon Xi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Delta Leadership Award; the NAACP Mother of the Year Award; The Women in the Community Award; and serves as youth minister at the church she attends. Linda has been married to Roy Downing for 22 years, and together they have 4 daughters and 3 grandchildren. The proverb that says, if you want to give a job to somebody, give it to someone that already has a lot to do is a model for Linda's life—but she does and has always gotten the job done.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Linda Citchens Downing for she is the epitome of an unsung hero.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NATIONAL LETTER CARRIERS ASSOCIATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC), Branch 36., on the occasion of their 46th annual dinner dance. For over 130 years, Branch 36 has demonstrated its steadfast dedication to its members, their families, and the larger communities of Manhattan and the Bronx.

Founded in 1889, New York Letter Carriers, Branch 36 has represented the interest of its members and their families by fighting for adequate benefits and working conditions, offering scholarships to New York City youth, and defending pensions for retirees.

In 1970, as a rank-and-file letter carrier at Grand Central Station, Vincent Sombroto assumed leadership of the wildcat postal strike that directly led to the creation of the modern U.S. Postal Service. The following year he was elected president of Branch 36, and later went on to become the 16th President of NALC.

Branch 36 is located in the Vincent Sombroto Post Office at Grand Central Station, which was renamed through legislation that I introduced in the House of Representatives after his passing in 2013 and its leadership today continues in his tradition of leadership.

Branch 36 President Charlie Heege and all of the Branch officers and members provide such an important service to vulnerable residents and communities. Through all of their continued efforts, Branch 36 remains a true beacon of leadership and strength.

The support of the NALC was also crucial to passing the Postal Service Reform Act, which I introduced in the House of Representatives. This legislation will critically reform the Postal Service and ensure it is on stable financial footing.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the laudable history of Branch 36 and in expressing my gratitude for its continued commitment to its members, families, and community.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4,

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

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

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, November 15, 2022 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's record.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

NOVEMBER 16

Time to be announced

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Karla Ann Gilbride, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Jessica Looman, of Minnesota, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, Moshe Z. Marvit, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, and other pending calendar business.

TBA

10 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine U.S. policy in the Caucasus.

SD-419

10:30 a.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine promoting healthy and affordable food for older Americans.

SD-562

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 3168, to amend the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 to modify the enforceability date for certain provisions, S. 3308, to authorize the Colorado River Indian Tribes to enter into lease or exchange agreements and storage agreements relating to water of the Colorado River allocated to the Colorado River Indian Tribes, S. 4104, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Hualapai Tribe and certain allottees in the State of Arizona, to authorize construction of a water project relating to those water rights claims, and an original bill to amend the Not Invisible Act of 2019 to extend, and provide additional support for, the activities of the Department of the Interior and the Department of Justice Joint Commission on Reducing Violent Crime Against Indians; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine S. 4870, to approve the settlement of the water right claims of the Tule River Tribe, and S. 4898, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna in the Rio San Jose

Stream System in the State of New Mexico.

SD-628

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SVC-217

3 p.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Department of Veterans Affairs implementation of the SFC Heath Robinson Honoring our PACT Act.

SD-G50

4:15 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider H.R. 3175, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 135 Main Street in Biloxi, Mississippi, as the "Robert S. McKeithen Post Office Building", and the nominations of Robert Harley Shriver III, of Virginia, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Personnel Management, and Richard L. Revesz, of New York, to be Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget.

SD-342

NOVEMBER 17

9 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Anthony Devos Johnstone, of Montana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Maria Araujo Kahn, of Connecticut, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, Julie Rikelman, of Massachusetts, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit, Daniel J. Calabretta, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California, Matthew L. Garcia, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico, Margaret R. Guzman, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, Jeffery Paul Hopkins, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio, Lindsay C. Jenkins, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, Araceli Martinez-Olguin, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, Adrienne C. Nelson, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon, Jamar K. Walker, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, Jamal N. Whitehead, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington, and McLain J. Schneider, to be United States Attorney for the District of North Dakota, and David C. Davis, of Illinois, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Illinois, both of the Department of Justice.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittee on Chemical Safety, Waste Management, Environmental Justice, and Regulatory Oversight

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Stephen A. Owens, of Arizona, to be Chairperson, and Catherine J.K. Sandoval, of California, to be a Member, both of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board.

SD-406

10:15 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental AffairsTo hold hearings to examine threats to
the homeland.

SD-342

11 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Re-
sourcesTo hold hearings to examine the nomina-
tions of David Crane, of New Jersey, tobe Under Secretary, Jeffrey Matthew
Marootian, of the District of Columbia,
to be an Assistant Secretary (Energy
Efficiency and Renewable Energy), and
Gene Rodrigues, of California, to be an
Assistant Secretary (Electricity Deliv-
ery and Energy Reliability), all of the
Department of Energy.

SD-366

POSTPONEMENTS

NOVEMBER 16

10 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

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

SD-106

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6635–S6675

Measures Introduced: Ten bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 5076–5085, S.J. Res. 64, and S. Res. 830. **Pages S6667–68**

Measures Reported:

Reported on Tuesday, October 18, during the adjournment:

S. 3868, to correct the inequitable denial of enhanced retirement and annuity benefits to certain U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 117–175)

S. 3903, to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to establish procedures for conducting maintenance projects at ports of entry at which the Office of Field Operations conducts certain enforcement and facilitation activities, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 117–176)

S. 3904, to enhance the cybersecurity of the Healthcare and Public Health Sector, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 117–177)

S. 4337, to amend title 5, United States Code, to authorize the appointment of spouses of members of the Armed Forces who are on active duty, disabled, or deceased to positions in which the spouses will work remotely, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 117–178)

S. 557, to establish a pilot program for native plant species, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 117–179)

S. 1718, to amend the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park Establishment Act of 2000 to provide for additional areas to be added to the park, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 117–180)

S. 1769, to adjust the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the Rim of the Valley Corridor, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 117–181)

S. 2693, to amend the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 to authorize additional projects related to the Salton Sea, with an amendment. (S. Rept. No. 117–182)

S. 3141, to establish the New Philadelphia National Historical Park in the State of Illinois as a unit of the National Park System, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 117–183)

S. 3185, to amend the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Improvement Act to extend the exception to the closure of certain roads within the Recreation Area for local businesses. (S. Rept. No. 117–184)

S. 3307, to modify the boundary of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in the State of Missouri, with amendments. (S. Rept. No. 117–185)

S. 3404, to provide the consent of Congress to an amendment to the Constitution of the State of New Mexico. (S. Rept. No. 117–186)

S. 3450, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct, operate, and maintain facilities in the Sun River project, Montana, for the purpose of hydroelectric power generation. (S. Rept. No. 117–187)

S. 4176, to amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to modify the eligibility requirements for certain small water storage and groundwater storage projects and to authorize the use of funds for certain additional Carey Act projects, with an amendment. (S. Rept. No. 117–188)

H.R. 3531, to authorize the Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs. (S. Rept. No. 117–189)

S. 3685, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the John P. Parker House in Ripley, Ohio, as a unit of the National Park System. (S. Rept. No. 117–190)

Report to accompany S. 3375, to promote travel and tourism in the United States, to improve the health safety and security of international flights entering the United States. (S. Rept. No. 117–191)

S. 977, to amend the Sherman Act to make oil-producing and exporting cartels illegal.

S. 4573, to amend title 3, United States Code, to reform the Electoral Count Act, and to amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to provide clear guidelines for when and to whom resources are provided by the Administrator of General Services for use in connection with the preparations for the assumption of official duties as President or Vice President, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

Page S6667

Reported on Monday, November 14:

S. 1009, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 regarding the procurement of certain items related to national security interests for Department of Homeland Security frontline operational components, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 117–192)

S. 4460, to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to regularly review and update policies and manuals related to inspections at ports of entry, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 117–193)

H.R. 3709, to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to submit to Congress a report on preliminary damage assessments and make necessary improvements to processes in the Federal Emergency Management Agency. (S. Rept. No. 117–194)

H.R. 7077, to require the United States Fire Administration to conduct on-site investigations of major fires. (S. Rept. No. 117–195)

Page S6667

Measures Considered:

Respect for Marriage Act—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 8404, to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and ensure respect for State regulation of marriage.

Page S6642

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Wednesday, November 16, 2022.

Page S6642

Appointments:

United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission: The Chair announced, on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 106–398, as amended by Public Law 108–7, and in consultation with the Ranking Members of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, the reappointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the United States-China Economic and Security

Review Commission: Robin Cleveland of Virginia for a term expiring December 31, 2024.

Page S6673

Covid National Emergency Declaration—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, following consultation with the Republican Leader, Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S.J. Res. 63, relating to a national emergency declared by the President on March 13, 2020; that there be 30 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form; and that upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution, without further intervening action or debate.

Page S6673

Antongiorgi-Jordan Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Maria del R. Antongiorgi-Jordan, of Puerto Rico, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico.

Page S6643

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 51 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. 353), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Page S6643

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 11 a.m., on Tuesday, November 15, 2022; and that at 2:15 p.m., Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination.

Page S6674

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Martin J. Gruenberg, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for a term of six years.

Martin J. Gruenberg, of Maryland, to be Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for a term of five years.

Daniel I. Werfel, of the District of Columbia, to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue for the term expiring November 12, 2027.

Jaime E. Esparza, of Texas, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Texas for the term of four years.

Alamdard S. Hamdani, of Texas, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Texas for the term of four years.

Peter D. Leary, of Georgia, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia for the term of four years.

Leigha Simonton, of Texas, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Texas for the term of four years.

Jill E. Steinberg, of Georgia, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia for the term of four years.

85 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

111 Army nominations in the rank of general.

1 Coast Guard nomination in the rank of admiral.

5 Marine Corps nominations in the rank of general.

2 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Pages S6674–75

Messages from the House: **Page S6666**

Measures Read the First Time: **Page S6666**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Pages S6666–67**

Executive Communications: **Page S6667**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S6668–72**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Pages S6672–73

Additional Statements: **Pages S6661–66**

Amendments Submitted: **Page S6673**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S6673**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today.
(Total—353) **Page S6442**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 6:52 p.m., until 11 a.m. on Tuesday, November 15, 2022. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6674.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 6 public bills, H.R. 9291–9296; and 7 resolutions, H. Res. 1463, 1465–1470 were introduced. **Page H8494**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H8494–95**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 5721, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve research conducted within the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 117–551);

H.R. 4275, to provide for certain reports on enrollment in the Lifeline program, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 117–552);

H.R. 5441, to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 117–553);

H.R. 6290, to provide for the establishment of a section of the website of the Department of Commerce that shall serve as the primary hub for information relating to Federal manufacturing programs, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 117–554);

H.R. 5502, to require online marketplaces to verify certain information regarding high-volume third party sellers of consumer products on such online marketplaces and to disclose to consumers certain contact and other information regarding such high-volume third party sellers (H. Rept. 117–555);

H. Res. 1464, providing for consideration of the bill (S. 4524) to limit the judicial enforceability of predispute nondisclosure and nondisparagement contract clauses relating to disputes involving sexual assault and sexual harassment; and for other purposes (H. Rept. 117–556); and

H.R. 7310, to protect America's retirement security, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 117–557, Part 1). **Pages H8493–94**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Kahele to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H8443**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Designating the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 400 College Drive, Middleburg, Florida, as the "Andrew K. Baker Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic": S. 2159, to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 400 College Drive, Middleburg, Florida, as the "Andrew K. Baker Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic"; **Pages H8444–46**

Naming the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Forest City, North Carolina, as the "Corporal Jerry K. Crump

VA Clinic: H.R. 5481, amended, to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Forest City, North Carolina, as the "Corporal Jerry K. Crump VA Clinic";

Pages H8446–47

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "To name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Forest City, North Carolina, as the 'Master Sergeant Jerry K. Crump VA Clinic'.";

Pages H8446–47

Designating the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in French Camp, California, as the "Richard A. Pittman VA Clinic": H.R. 6722, to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in French Camp, California, as the "Richard A. Pittman VA Clinic";

Pages H8447–49

Designating the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Memphis, Tennessee, as the "Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr. VA Medical Center": H.R. 6863, to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Memphis, Tennessee, as the "Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr. VA Medical Center";

Pages H8449–52

Designating the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Canton, Michigan, as the "Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Outpatient Clinic": H.R. 7903, amended, to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Canton, Michigan, as the "Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Outpatient Clinic";

Pages H8452–55

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic located in Canton, Michigan, as the 'Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Clinic'.";

Pages H8452–55

Designating the outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Palm Desert, California, as the "Sy Kaplan Veterans Center": H.R. 7925, amended, to designate the outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Palm Desert, California, as the "Sy Kaplan Veterans Center";

Pages H8455–57

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic located in Palm Desert, California, as the 'Sy Kaplan VA Clinic'.";

Pages H8455–57

Prevent All Soring Tactics Act: H.R. 5441, amended, to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the

Act, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 304 yeas to 111 nays, Roll No. 478;

Pages H8473–77

Disaster Resiliency Planning Act: S. 3510, to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance with respect to natural disaster resilience;

Pages H8482–83

Metropolitan Areas Protection and Standardization Act: S. 1941, to direct the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to standardize the use of core-based statistical area designations across Federal programs, to allow between 120 and 180 days for public comment on any proposed change to such designations, and to report on the scientific basis and estimated impact to Federal programs for any proposed change to such designations;

Pages H8483–85

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 75 Commerce Drive in Grayslake, Illinois, as the "Army Specialist Joseph 'Joey' W. Dimock II Post Office Building": H.R. 7899, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 75 Commerce Drive in Grayslake, Illinois, as the "Army Specialist Joseph 'Joey' W. Dimock II Post Office Building";

Pages H8485–86

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 301 East Congress Parkway in Crystal Lake, Illinois, as the "Ryan J. Cummings Post Office Building": H.R. 6917, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 301 East Congress Parkway in Crystal Lake, Illinois, as the "Ryan J. Cummings Post Office Building";

Page H8486

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 275 Penn Avenue in Salem, Ohio, as the "Howard Arthur Tibbs Post Office": H.R. 2473, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 275 Penn Avenue in Salem, Ohio, as the "Howard Arthur Tibbs Post Office";

Pages H8486–87

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 23200 John R Road in Hazel Park, Michigan, as the "Roy E. Dickens Post Office": H.R. 7518, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 23200 John R Road in Hazel Park, Michigan, as the "Roy E. Dickens Post Office";

Pages H8487–88

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1304 4th Avenue in Canyon, Texas, as the "Gary James Fletcher Post Office Building": S. 3826, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1304 4th Avenue in Canyon, Texas, as the "Gary James Fletcher Post Office Building"; and

Pages H8488–89

Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 404 U.S. Highway 41 North in Baraga, Michigan, as the “Cora Reynolds Anderson Post Office”: S. 3884, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 404 U.S. Highway 41 North in Baraga, Michigan, as the “Cora Reynolds Anderson Post Office”.

Page H8489

Recess: The House recessed at 6:12 p.m. and reconvened at 6:41 p.m.

Page H8489

Oath of Office—Second Congressional District of Indiana: Representative-elect Rudolph (Rudy) Yakym III presented himself in the well of the House and was administered the Oath of Office by the Speaker. Earlier, the Clerk of the House transmitted a scanned copy of a letter received from Mr. J. Bradley King and Ms. Angela M. Nussmeyer, Co-Directors of the Indiana Election Division, indicating that, according to the unofficial results of the Special Election held November 8, 2022, the Honorable Rudolph (Rudy) Yakym III was elected Representative to Congress for the Second Congressional District, State of Indiana.

Page H8490

Whole Number of the House: The Speaker announced to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath of office to the gentleman from Indiana, the whole number of the House is 433.

Page H8490

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Max Cleland VA Medical Center Act: S. 3369, to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in metropolitan Atlanta, Georgia, as the “Joseph Maxwell Cleland Atlanta Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center”; Pages H8457–59

Senator Johnny Isakson VA Regional Office Act of 2022: S. 4359, to designate the regional office of the Department of Veterans Affairs in metropolitan Atlanta as the “Senator Johnny Isakson Department of Veterans Affairs Atlanta Regional Office”;

Pages H8459–61

VA Infrastructure Powers Exceptional Research Act: H.R. 5721, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve research conducted within the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Pages H8461–64

Strengthening VA Cybersecurity Act of 2022: H.R. 7299, amended, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to obtain an independent cybersecurity assessment of information systems of the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Pages H8464–65

Improving Oversight of the Veterans Community Care Providers Act of 2022: H.R. 7277, amended, to improve the methods by which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs identifies health care providers that are not eligible to participate in the Veterans Community Care Program;

Pages H8465–67

Department of Veterans Affairs Information Technology Reform Act: H.R. 2250, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the management of information technology projects and investments of the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Pages H8467–69

Lymphedema Treatment Act: H.R. 3630, amended, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of certain lymphedema compression treatment items under the Medicare program;

Pages H8469–71

Ensuring Phone and Internet Access for SNAP Recipients Act: H.R. 4275, amended, to provide for certain reports on enrollment in the Lifeline program;

Pages H8471–72

Manufacturing.gov Act: H.R. 6290, amended, to provide for the establishment of a section of the website of the Department of Commerce that shall serve as the primary hub for information relating to Federal manufacturing programs;

Pages H8472–73

Requiring online marketplaces to verify certain information regarding high-volume third party sellers of consumer products on such online marketplaces and to disclose to consumers certain contact and other information regarding such high-volume third party sellers: H.R. 5502, amended, to require online marketplaces to verify certain information regarding high-volume third party sellers of consumer products on such online marketplaces and to disclose to consumers certain contact and other information regarding such high-volume third party sellers;

Pages H8477–80

Guidance Clarity Act: S. 533, to require a guidance clarity statement on certain agency guidance; and

Pages H8480–81

Civil Rights Cold Case Investigations Support Act of 2022: S. 3655, to amend the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act of 2018 to extend the termination date of the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board.

Pages H8481–82

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote developed during the proceedings of today and appears on pages H8490–91.

Adjournment: The House met at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Committee Meetings

SPEAK OUT ACT; REPORT ON ENDING HUNGER IN AMERICA

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on S. 4524, the “Speak Out Act”; and a draft report on Ending Hunger in America: Challenges, Opportunities and the Political Will to Succeed. The Committee granted, by record vote of 7–3, a closed rule providing for consideration of S. 4524, the “Speak Out Act”. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their designees. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule provides one motion to commit. The rule provides that at any time through the legislative day of November 18, 2022, the Speaker may entertain motions offered by the Majority Leader or a designee that the House suspend the rules with respect to multiple measures that were the object of motions to suspend the rules on the legislative day of November 14, 15, 16, 17, or 18, 2022, on which the yeas and nays were ordered and further proceedings postponed. The Chair shall put the question on any such motion without debate or intervening motion, and the ordering of the yeas and nays on postponed motions to suspend the rules with respect to such measures is vacated. The rule provides that proceedings may be postponed through November 18, 2022, on measures that were the object of motions to suspend the rules on the legislative days of November 14 or November 15, 2022, and on which the yeas and nays were ordered. Section 4 of the rule provides that on any legislative day during the period from November 21, 2022, through November 28, 2022, the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved. The rule provides that for the duration of the period addressed by Section 4: the Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair; and that each day shall not constitute a calendar day for the purposes of section 7 of the War Powers Resolution, a legislative day for purposes of clause 7 of rule XIII, or a calendar or legislative day for purposes of clause 7(c)(1) of rule XXII. The rule provides that House Resolution 1463 is hereby adopted. Testimony was heard from Representatives Cicilline and Massie.

Joint Meetings

RUSSIA’S GENOCIDAL INTENT IN UKRAINE

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission received a briefing on Russia’s genocidal intent and actions in Ukraine, the evidence, and the case for a congressional declaration from Timothy Snyder, Yale University; Maria Kurinna, Ukrainian human rights activist; Eugene Finkel, Johns Hopkins University; and Erin Rosenberg, Mukwege Foundation and Urban Morgan Institute for Human Rights.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D1066)

H.R. 468, to amend title 49, United States Code, to permit the use of incentive payments to expedite certain federally financed airport development projects. Signed on October 10, 2022. (Public Law 117–186)

H.R. 1766, to enhance cooperation between the Federal Trade Commission and State Attorneys General to combat unfair and deceptive practices. Signed on October 10, 2022. (Public Law 117–187)

H.R. 4877, to amend the Small Business Act to require the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman to create a centralized website for compliance guides. Signed on October 10, 2022. (Public Law 117–188)

H.R. 5641, to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to increase the threshold for eligibility for assistance under sections 403, 406, 407, and 502 of such Act. Signed on October 10, 2022. (Public Law 117–189)

H.R. 7500, to authorize major medical facility projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2022. Signed on October 10, 2022. (Public Law 117–190)

H.R. 7846, to increase, effective as of December 1, 2022, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans. Signed on October 10, 2022. (Public Law 117–191)

H.R. 8982, to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to suspend temporarily rates of duty on imports of certain infant formula base powder used in the manufacturing of infant formula in the United States. Signed on October 10, 2022. (Public Law 117–192)

H.R. 91, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 810 South Pendleton Street in Easley, South Carolina, as the “Private First

Class Barrett Lyle Austin Post Office Building”. Signed on October 11, 2022. (Public Law 117–193)

H.R. 92, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 110 Johnson Street in Pickens, South Carolina, as the “Specialist Four Charles Johnson Post Office”. Signed on October 11, 2022. (Public Law 117–194)

H.R. 2142, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 170 Manhattan Avenue in Buffalo, New York, as the “Indiana Hunt-Martin Post Office Building”. Signed on October 11, 2022. (Public Law 117–195)

H.R. 3508, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 39 West Main Street, in Honeoye Falls, New York, as the “CW4 Christian J. Koch Memorial Post Office”. Signed on October 11, 2022. (Public Law 117–196)

H.R. 3539, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 223 West Chalan Santo Papa in Hagatna, Guam, as the “Atanasio Taitano Perez Post Office”. Signed on October 11, 2022. (Public Law 117–197)

H.R. 5809, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1801 Town and Country Drive in Norco, California, as the “Lance Corporal Kareem Nikoui Memorial Post Office Building”. Signed on October 11, 2022. (Public Law 117–198)

H.R. 7698, to designate the outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Ventura, California, as the “Captain Rosemary Bryant Mariner Outpatient Clinic”. Signed on October 11, 2022. (Public Law 117–199)

S. 1098, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize borrowers to separate joint consolidation loans. Signed on October 11, 2022. (Public Law 117–200)

S. 169, to amend title 17, United States Code, to require the Register of Copyrights to waive fees for filing an application for registration of a copyright claim in certain circumstances. Signed on October 17, 2022. (Public Law 117–201)

S. 442, to amend title 40, United States Code, to require the Administrator of General Services to procure the most life-cycle cost effective and energy efficient lighting products and to issue guidance on the efficiency, effectiveness, and economy of those products. Signed on October 17, 2022. (Public Law 117–202)

S. 516, to plan for and coordinate efforts to integrate advanced air mobility aircraft into the national airspace system. Signed on October 17, 2022. (Public Law 117–203)

S. 958, to amend the Public Health Service Act to expand the allowable use criteria for new access

points grants for community health centers. Signed on October 17, 2022. (Public Law 117–204)

S. 1198, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and expand the Solid Start program of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Signed on October 17, 2022. (Public Law 117–205)

S. 2490, to establish the Blackwell School National Historic Site in Marfa, Texas. Signed on October 17, 2022. (Public Law 117–206)

S. 2551, to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to establish or otherwise provide an artificial intelligence training program for the acquisition workforce. Signed on October 17, 2022. (Public Law 117–207)

S. 2771, to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in San Angelo, Texas, as the “Colonel Charles and JoAnne Powell Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic”. Signed on October 17, 2022. (Public Law 117–208)

S. 2794, to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase automatic maximum coverage under the Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance program and the Veterans’ Group Life Insurance program. Signed on October 17, 2022. (Public Law 117–209)

S. 3157, to require the Secretary of Labor to conduct a study of the factors affecting employment opportunities for immigrants and refugees with professional credentials obtained in foreign countries. Signed on October 17, 2022. (Public Law 117–210)

S. 3470, to provide for the implementation of certain trafficking in contracting provisions. Signed on October 17, 2022. (Public Law 117–211)

S. 4205, to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to establish a working group relating to best practices and Federal guidance for animals in emergencies and disasters. Signed on October 17, 2022. (Public Law 117–212)

S. 4791, to amend section 301 of title 44, United States Code, to establish a term for the appointment of the Director of the Government Publishing Office. Signed on October 17, 2022. (Public Law 117–213)

H.R. 4693, to advance targeted and evidence-based interventions for the prevention and treatment of global malnutrition and to improve the coordination of such programs. Signed on October 19, 2022. (Public Law 117–214)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2022

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: to hold hearings to examine the 2023 Farm Bill, focusing on rural development and energy programs, 10 a.m., SR-328A.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold an oversight hearing to examine financial regulators, focusing on a strong banking and credit union system for main street, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure, to hold hearings to examine implementing IJA, focusing on opportunities for local jurisdictions to address transportation challenges, 2:30 p.m., SD-406.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to hold hearings to examine medical mistreatment of women in Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention, 2:30 p.m., SD-342.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of DeAndrea Gist Benjamin, of South Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, Robert Stewart Ballou, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia, Todd E. Edelman, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Kymberly Kathryn Evanson, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington, Myong J. Joun, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, and Colleen R. Lawless, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois, 10 a.m., SD-226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SVC-217.

House

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Housing, Community Development, and Insurance, hearing entitled "Persistent Poverty in America: Addressing Chronic Disinvestment in Colonias, the Southern Black Belt, and the U.S. Territories", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn and Webex.

Subcommittee on Investor Protection, Entrepreneurship and Capital Markets, hearing entitled "Investing in Our Rivals: Examining U.S. Capital Flows to Foreign Rivals and Adversaries Around the World", 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Global Human Rights, hearing entitled "Retooling U.S. Foreign Assistance to Alleviate the Root Causes of Instability and Conflict in Africa", 10 a.m., 2200 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Homeland Security, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Worldwide Threats to the Homeland", 9:30 a.m., 310 Cannon and Webex.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, hearing entitled "Devel-

opments in State Cannabis Laws and Bipartisan Cannabis Reforms at the Federal Level", 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn and Zoom.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of November 15 through
November 18, 2022

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Maria del R. Antongiorgi-Jordan, of Puerto Rico, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation of the nomination at 2:15 p.m.

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

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: November 15, to hold hearings to examine the 2023 Farm Bill, focusing on rural development and energy programs, 10 a.m., SR-328A.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: November 15, to hold an oversight hearing to examine financial regulators, focusing on a strong banking and credit union system for main street, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: November 17, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of David Crane, of New Jersey, to be Under Secretary, Jeffrey Matthew Marootian, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary (Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy), and Gene Rodrigues, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary (Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability), all of the Department of Energy, 11 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: November 15, Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure, to hold hearings to examine implementing IJA, focusing on opportunities for local jurisdictions to address transportation challenges, 2:30 p.m., SD-406.

November 17, Subcommittee on Chemical Safety, Waste Management, Environmental Justice, and Regulatory Oversight, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Stephen A. Owens, of Arizona, to be Chairperson, and Catherine J.K. Sandoval, of California, to be a Member, both of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, 10 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: November 16, to hold hearings to examine U.S. policy in the Caucasus, 10 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: November 16, business meeting to consider the nominations of Karla Ann Gilbride, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Jessica Looman, of Minnesota, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, Moshe

Z. Marvit, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, and other pending calendar business, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: November 15, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to hold hearings to examine medical mistreatment of women in Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention, 2:30 p.m., SD-342.

November 16, Full Committee, business meeting to consider H.R. 3175, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 135 Main Street in Biloxi, Mississippi, as the “Robert S. McKeithen Post Office Building”, and the nominations of Robert Harley Shriver III, of Virginia, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Personnel Management, and Richard L. Revesz, of New York, to be Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 4:15 p.m., SD-342.

November 17, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine threats to the homeland, 10:15 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: November 16, business meeting to consider S. 3168, to amend the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 to modify the enforceability date for certain provisions, S. 3308, to authorize the Colorado River Indian Tribes to enter into lease or exchange agreements and storage agreements relating to water of the Colorado River allocated to the Colorado River Indian Tribes, S. 4104, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Hualapai Tribe and certain allottees in the State of Arizona, to authorize construction of a water project relating to those water rights claims, and an original bill to amend the Not Invisible Act of 2019 to extend, and provide additional support for, the activities of the Department of the Interior and the Department of Justice Joint Commission on Reducing Violent Crime Against Indians; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine S. 4870, to approve the settlement of the water right claims of the Tule River Tribe, and S. 4898, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna in the Rio San Jose Stream System in the State of New Mexico, 2:30 p.m., SD-628.

Committee on the Judiciary: November 15, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of DeAndrea Gist Benjamin, of South Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, Robert Stewart Ballou, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia, Todd E. Edelman, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Kymberly Kathryn Evanson, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington, Myong J. Joun, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, and Colleen R. Lawless, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois, 10 a.m., SD-226.

November 17, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of Anthony Devos Johnstone, of Montana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Maria Araujo Kahn, of Connecticut, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, Julie

Rikelman, of Massachusetts, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit, Daniel J. Calabretta, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California, Matthew L. Garcia, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico, Margaret R. Guzman, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, Jeffery Paul Hopkins, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio, Lindsay C. Jenkins, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, Araceli Martinez-Olguin, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, Adrienne C. Nelson, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon, Jamar K. Walker, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, Jamal N. Whitehead, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington, and McLain J. Schneider, to be United States Attorney for the District of North Dakota, and David C. Davis, of Illinois, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Illinois, both of the Department of Justice, 9 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: November 16, to hold hearings to examine the Department of Veterans Affairs implementation of the SFC Heath Robinson Honoring our PACT Act, 3 p.m., SD-G50.

Select Committee on Intelligence: November 15, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SVC-217.

November 16, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SVC-217.

Special Committee on Aging: November 16, to hold hearings to examine promoting healthy and affordable food for older Americans, 10:30 a.m., SD-562.

House Committees

Committee on Education and Labor, November 17, Full Committee, business meeting to approve new subcommittee assignments, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn and Zoom.

November 17, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing entitled “Unsafe and Untenable: Examining Workplace Protections for Warehouse Workers”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Financial Services, November 16, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Oversight of Prudential Regulators: Ensuring the Safety, Soundness, Diversity, and Accountability of Depository Institutions”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, November 16, Subcommittee on Europe, Energy, the Environment and Cyber, hearing entitled “Russia’s Waning Global Influence”, 10 a.m., 2200 Rayburn and Webex.

November 17, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Assessing the Biden Administration’s U.S. Strategy Toward Sub-Saharan Africa”, 10 a.m., HVC-210 and Webex.

Committee on Natural Resources, November 16, Full Committee, markup on H. Res. 1378, of inquiry requesting the President and directing the Secretary of Agriculture to transmit, respectively, certain documents to the

House of Representatives relating to Resolution Copper mine, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth and Webex.

November 17, Office of Insular Affairs Full Committee, hearing entitled “Puerto Rico’s Post-Disaster Reconstruction and Power Grid Development”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth and Webex.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, November 16, Subcommittee on National Security, hearing entitled “JROTC: Protecting Cadets from Sexual Abuse and Instructor Misconduct”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn and Zoom.

November 16, Subcommittee on Government Operations, hearing entitled “The Holiday Rush: Is the Postal Service Ready?”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn and Zoom.

November 17, Full Committee, business meeting on H.R. 1283, the “CONTRACT Act of 2021”; H.R. 1307, the “Vote by Mail Tracking Act”; H. Res. 1412, of inquiry directing the Secretary of the Treasury to transmit certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the projected inflationary impact of the implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the Build Back Better Act, and the Infrastructure and Jobs Act in conjunction with the Build Back Better Act; and several postal naming measures, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Rules, November 16, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Legal and Procedural Factors Related to

Seating a Cherokee Nation Delegate in the U.S. House of Representatives”, 10 a.m., H-313 Capitol.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, November 16, Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, hearing entitled “Unfolding the Universe: Initial Science Results from the James Webb Space Telescope”, 10:30 a.m., 2318 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, November 17, Subcommittee on Aviation, hearing entitled “Accessible Air Travel: Addressing Challenges for Passengers with Disabilities”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, November 16, Full Committee, markup on H. Res. 1379, of inquiry to the President and directing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to transmit, respectively, certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to wait times for veterans to receive primary care, mental health care, and specialty care appointments at medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and H.R. 4722, the “Mark O’Brien VA Clothing Allowance Improvement Act”, 2 p.m., HVC-210 and Zoom.

Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, November 17, Full Committee, business meeting on proposed recommendations, 11 a.m., 2359 Rayburn and Zoom.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

11 a.m., Tuesday, November 15

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Maria del R. Antongiorgi-Jordan, of Puerto Rico, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation of the nomination at 2:15 p.m.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, November 15

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of H. Res. 1463—Providing for Consideration of S. 4524—Speak Out Act.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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Congressional Record

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