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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

December 7, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

In the waning days of this 116th Congress, we ask Your blessing upon the Members of this people's House and, most especially, upon leadership. It is on their shoulders the most important negotiations of this Congress have been placed.

The coronavirus continues to ravage communities throughout the Nation. Bless the Members here with the good will and courage to work through differences to find assistance for so many Americans in dire need at this time. Help and empower them also as they work toward a total funding of our government into a stronger and more hopeful future.

Bless, as well, those who labor among our sick. Keep them safe and bless their families for their generosity during these times.

May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution

967, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. GARCIA of California 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from California (Mr. COOK), the whole number of the House is 430.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GEORGE YUREK

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, as we mark today, the 79th year since Pearl Harbor, I want to tell you about my friend, George Yurek, who, when he got into the Army in 1942, volunteered for bomb disposal. He went to Corregidor, "The Rock" of the Philippines.

His unit was in the first amphibious wave on the island. There were so many landmines there that, with U.S.

troops amassing for landing, they had very little time. They had to defuse the landmines by hand, and they called for volunteers.

Sergeant George Yurek of West Wyoming, Pennsylvania, volunteered to defuse landmines by hand, and he defused hundreds of them. It is impossible to count how many American troops he saved by his actions.

For his heroism in the Pacific, George Yurek was awarded a total of four Bronze Stars for valor.

Last week, at the age of 98, George passed away, after mentoring countless young people in all the Wyoming Valley.

George and his late wife, Ellie, were married for 67 years. They leave three children, Greg, George, and Ann, and seven grandchildren.

May God rest his soul.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHERI FLEMING

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

Mr. GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend and to honor the life of someone very special to my hometown of Santa Clarita.

Ms. Cheri Fleming, a radiant mom, a beautiful wife, a savvy businesswoman, and an avid philanthropist, passed away on November 16.

Cheri was an icon in the Santa Clarita Valley. She was the brilliant and shining essence of everything that is great about my hometown. She led with grace. She succeeded in business with humility. She supported charities with endless generosity. She loved her friends and family intensely, always giving one of the most warm hugs you can imagine.

As a philanthropist, Cheri was one of the primary reasons why so many nonprofit organizations in our district are

□ 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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thriving and providing services and hope to countless thousands.

Today, she is with God, but she will always remain in our hearts, Mr. Speaker.

My deepest condolences go out to her family and especially her husband, Don, who is also one of the greatest Americans I have ever known.

May God bless the Cheri Fleming family, and may God bless Santa Clarita in the wake of her loss.

CBO SCORE OF THE MORE ACT

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it was sad that my Republican colleagues were unable to understand why we voted to reform our failed prohibition of cannabis. They don't care about honoring the will of the people and they are unable to grasp the enormity of the racial injustice and damage by selective enforcement against young Black and Brown Americans.

But the CBO score may have some other reasons for them. It shows that the MORE Act would reduce 73,000 person-years of prison time, saving \$1 billion. It would increase revenues by \$13.7 billion. It would provide \$3 billion for job training and legal aid to people harmed by the war on drugs.

While doing all of this, it would reduce the Federal deficit by \$7.344 billion.

Even if you don't care about reducing the damage to Black and Brown Americans or honoring the will of the people, the economics make it clear: Once again, the people are right, and the policy deserves strong congressional support.

HONORING BILL RANEY

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

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bill Raney as he retires from the West Virginia Coal Association.

Nearly 40 years ago, in the West Virginia Legislature, Bill and I began working together, advocating on behalf of the coal industry and the families who depend on it. Today, we continue to work together, fighting for those same families, but now with a national perspective.

He has led West Virginia through the best and the worst of times for coal. Bill is an icon in the industry, and his legacy is filled with remarkable accomplishments. He is a colonel in the West Virginia Reserves, has chaired many statewide organizations, and has been nationally recognized for his advocacy of coal.

Bill Raney exemplifies the true Mountaineer spirit, serving others to make West Virginia a better place.

It has been an honor to work with Bill, and I wish him and his wife, Pam, a well-deserved retirement.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS OF GEORGIA'S FIFTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw the Chamber's attention to critical needs for Georgia's Fifth Congressional District.

I know it has been a familiar trope to suggest that this week is going to be the new infrastructure week. The administration has announced several different infrastructure weeks, in fact. But it is not just a talking point in my district. In my district, there are several projects that require the attention of this Chamber.

They include the Clayton commuter rail, Campbellton Road BRT and rail extension, Bankhead rail to Indian Creek extension, and Clifton Corridor transportation plan.

Tackling these projects accomplishes many ends. It is an economic revitalization project, as it connects vital American companies like Microsoft to greater Atlanta. It is an environmental imperative, as getting folks out of cars and onto mass transit decreases CO₂ levels. It is a jobs imperative, as it creates many well-paying jobs. It is a racial justice imperative, as these projects will service communities historically neglected.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARTIN NE SMITH

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor a very special person, Mr. Martin Ne Smith.

Martin was a natural-born leader who dedicated his life to serving others, including serving his country in the National Guard.

Following his graduation from Georgia Southern University, he began his career in the automobile industry and became the youngest dealer, at 24 years old, when he purchased a Chevrolet dealership in Claxton, Georgia.

His kindness and selflessness extended to every area of his life, including his business ventures. For example, in the early 1990s, he revolutionized the car business with the "No Hassle Buying" concept because he wanted every customer to be honored and treated with respect. No hassle buying means customers get the best deal right away, without the need to negotiate.

His dedication to the automobile industry earned him the highest honor an automobile dealer can achieve: the Time Magazine Quality Dealer Award.

This award recognizes car dealers who exhibit exceptional performance in their dealerships and perform distinguished community service.

Martin was a wonderful philanthropist within his community and beyond, and he led by example throughout his life.

He was also known as a man of integrity who kept his word in all he did, and he never met a stranger.

I was deeply saddened to hear of the loss of such an incredible person. My prayers go out to his family, friends, and community during this most difficult time.

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.

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

REAFFIRMING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND MONGOLIA

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1100) reaffirming the strategic partnership between the United States and Mongolia and observing the 30th anniversary of democracy in Mongolia, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1100

Whereas the United States and Mongolia established diplomatic relations in January 1987, and since that time the relationship has grown stronger based on shared strategic interests, security cooperation, democratic values, good governance, and respect for human rights;

Whereas, since its peaceful democratic revolution in 1989, Mongolia has charted, through a series of initiatives, a successful path to multiparty democracy and a free market economy;

Whereas, in 1990, the Government of Mongolia declared an end to a one-party, authoritarian, political system and adopted democratic and free market reforms;

Whereas, in 1992, Mongolia adopted a constitution establishing a parliamentary democracy, becoming the first country in Asia to transition from communism to democracy;

Whereas, in 1999, the Government of Mongolia invited the Peace Corps to establish its program in the country and has since hosted 1,437 volunteers in English and health education;

Whereas Mongolia has shown its commitment to a "third neighbor" relationship with the United States by sending troops to support United States operations in Iraq from 2003 through 2008 and Afghanistan since 2009, and Mongolia has a strong record of troop contributions to international peacekeeping missions;

Whereas successive Mongolian governments have taken notable steps to strengthen civil society, battle corruption, and spur economic development;

Whereas the Parliament of Mongolia, the State Great Khural, has engaged with Congress, including through the House Democracy Partnership, thereby promoting responsive and effective governance through peer-to-peer cooperation;

Whereas Mongolia began as a partner to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in 2004, graduated to become a participating state in 2012, and participates actively in the work of the OSCE for stability, peace, and democracy;

Whereas Mongolia has regularly invited the OSCE and other organizations to send monitoring teams to its Presidential and parliamentary elections;

Whereas Mongolia has also been an active member of the Community of Democracies (CoD), a global coalition of countries that support adherence to common democratic values and standards, and Mongolia has not only remained active since the founding of the CoD in 2000 but also successfully chaired the CoD from 2011 through 2013;

Whereas, in addition to supporting the OSCE and CoD, Mongolia supports democratic initiatives while participating in a wide range of other global institutions;

Whereas most recently, on June 24, 2020, Mongolia successfully organized parliamentary elections, strengthening its commitment to democracy and the rule of law;

Whereas the success of Mongolia as a democracy and its strategic location, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and ability to pursue an independent foreign policy are highly relevant to the national security of the United States;

Whereas climate change in Mongolia has contributed to severe droughts, higher temperatures, and extreme winter weather conditions, resulting in mass deaths of livestock and economic hardship for people living in rural communities, especially the nomadic population;

Whereas the United States has provided support to Mongolia through the Millennium Challenge Corporation through an initial compact signed in 2007 designed to increase economic growth and reduce poverty and a second compact signed in 2018 involving investments in water infrastructure, including supply and wastewater recycling, as well as water sector sustainability;

Whereas, on September 20, 2018, the United States and Mongolia signed a joint statement and the Roadmap for Expanded Economic Partnership, outlining the intent to deepen the bilateral commercial relationship through full implementation of the obligations under the Agreement on Transparency in Matters Related to International Trade and Investment between the United States of America and Mongolia, signed at New York, September 24, 2013 (in this preamble referred to as the "United States-Mongolia Transparency Agreement"), and to collaborate in supporting Mongolian small- and medium-sized enterprises through various programs and projects;

Whereas according to the Bureau of the Census, trade between the United States and Mongolia is modest but growing, with a total value of trade in 2019 between the two countries of approximately \$217,500,000, including \$192,700,000 in United States exports to Mongolia and \$24,800,000 in United States imports from Mongolia;

Whereas Mongolia is a beneficiary country under the Generalized System of Preferences program, but its use of the program remains low, as in 2018 only \$3,300,000 of exports from Mongolia to the United States entered were under the program; and

Whereas, on July 31, 2019, the United States and Mongolia declared the bilateral relationship a "Strategic Partnership" and noted the shared desire—

(1) to intensify cooperation as strong democracies based on the rule of law through safeguarding and promoting democratic values and human rights, including the freedoms of religion or belief, expression, including internet and media freedom, assembly, and association, anticorruption and fiscal transparency, and youth and emerging leader development;

(2) to cooperate in promoting national security and stability across the Indo-Pacific region so that all countries, secure in their sovereignty, are able to pursue economic growth consistent with international law and principles of fair competition;

(3) to deepen national security and law-enforcement ties through collaboration on bilateral and multilateral security, judicial, and law enforcement efforts in the region;

(4) to strengthen cooperation in multilateral engagements such as peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance, and disaster preparedness and relief operations;

(5) to expand trade and investment relations on a fair and reciprocal basis, support private sector-led growth, fully implement the United States-Mongolia Transparency Agreement, promote women's entrepreneurship, and continue to explore support for infrastructure under the new United States International Development Finance Corporation with the new tools provided under the BUILD Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.);

(6) to strengthen border security, prevent illegal transshipment and trafficking, expand cooperation on civil aviation safety and oversight, and efficiently facilitate legitimate travel between Mongolia and the United States;

(7) to increase cooperation in addressing transnational threats such as terrorism, human trafficking, drug trafficking, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, cyberattacks, transnational organized crime, pandemics, and other emerging nontraditional security threats;

(8) to continue to develop an environment in which civil society, social media, and a free and independent media can flourish; and

(9) to maintain high-level official dialogues, encourage bilateral exchanges at all levels of government, and further develop people-to-people exchanges to deepen engagement on issues of mutual interest and concern: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) underscores the importance of the relationship between the United States and Mongolia and remains committed to advancing this Strategic Partnership in the future;

(2) encourages the United States Government to help Mongolia use its benefits under the Generalized System of Preferences program and other relevant programs to increase trade between the United States and Mongolia;

(3) urges the United States International Development Finance Corporation to expand activities in Mongolia to support economic development, diversification of the economy of Mongolia, and women-owned small- and medium-sized enterprises;

(4) urges Mongolia to address climate change and continue to work with the UN Environment Programme, the Global Climate Fund, and other global institutions to strengthen climate change resilience;

(5) urges private and public support to help diversify the economy of Mongolia through increased cooperation and investments, as well as infrastructure and other vital projects;

(6) supports the resumption of the Peace Corps program in Mongolia once the COVID-19 pandemic has subsided;

(7) urges the Department of State, the United States Agency for International De-

velopment, and other relevant agencies to continue to support Mongolia's democratic and economic development and efforts on anticorruption;

(8) calls for the continued engagement of Mongolia in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Community of Democracies, congressional-parliamentary partnerships, including continued high-level parliamentary exchange, and other institutions that promote democratic values, which reinforces the commitment of the people and the Government of Mongolia to those values and standards;

(9) reaffirms the importance of civil society to the continued democratic development of Mongolia;

(10) encourages the Government of Mongolia to build a regulatory system that supports and encourages the growth and operation of independent nongovernmental organizations and continues to pursue policies of transparency that uphold democratic values;

(11) urges Mongolia to continue their commitment to free, fair and credible elections; and

(12) encourages the Government of Mongolia to continue legal reform, build institutional capacity, and improve the independence of other democratic institutions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on H. Res. 1100, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this year marks 30 years since Mongolia's democratic transition. Mongolia is a true success story, a landlocked country squeezed between two huge neighbors, China and Russia, that has nonetheless become a shining democratic breakthrough story in Asia.

As Mongolia's so-called third neighbor, the U.S. should continue to build upon our shared interests and commitment to democratic values and further advance our strategic partnership.

From national security to economic stability, Mongolia has demonstrated its commitment to our partnership by hosting annual peacekeeping exercises and participating in U.S.-led programs like the House Democracy Partnership and the Open World Leadership Center.

Our countries must also continue to partner closely on global warming. Climate change is a pressing concern for all the world and has already gravely affected the livelihood and well-being of the Mongolian people, who now face widespread livestock and crop losses, as well as escalating extreme-weather events.

□ 1215

This resolution urges the expansion of U.S.-Mongolia economic ties and encourages the Mongolian Government to continue to increase transparency, freedom, and good governance.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman TITUS for her work on this bipartisan resolution. I urge all Members to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 7, 2020.

Hon. ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ENGEL: In recognition of the desire to expedite consideration of H. Res. 1100, Reaffirming the strategic partnership between the United States and Mongolia and observing the 30th anniversary of democracy in Mongolia, the Committee on Ways and Means agrees to waive formal consideration of the resolution as to provisions that fall within the rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means.

The Committee on Ways and Means takes this action with the mutual understanding that we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the resolution or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues within our jurisdiction. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letter on this matter be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during floor consideration of H. Res. 1100.

Sincerely,

Hon. RICHARD E. NEAL,
Chairman,
Committee on Ways and Means.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, December 1, 2020.

Hon. RICHARD E. NEAL,
Committee on Ways and Means,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NEAL: I am writing to you concerning H. Res. 1100, Reaffirming the strategic partnership between the United States and Mongolia and observing the 30th anniversary of democracy in Mongolia. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on H. Res. 1100 to expedite floor consideration. I further acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your jurisdiction. I will also support the appointment of Committee on Ways and Means conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

Lastly, I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during floor consideration of the bill. Thank you again for your cooperation regarding the legislation. I look forward to continuing to work with you as the measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, the United States and Mongolia have a robust relationship, distinguished by our shared democratic ideals and strengthened by close economic and diplomatic cooperation.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of democracy in Mongolia. Mongolia was the first nation in Asia to transition from communism to democracy, marking an important juncture in the continent's history.

Years later, Mongolia remains an important democratic partner in the Indo-Pacific but finds itself in a challenging location, sandwiched entirely between Russia and China. What happens in Mongolia has direct implications for the United States. If malign actors compromise Mongolia's territorial integrity or ability to pursue independent foreign policy, the security of the United States is also at risk.

I have consistently warned about the Chinese Communist Party's malign activity around the world as the former chairman and current ranking member of the House Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation Subcommittee. I was also encouraged to see the recommendations released this year by the China Task Force.

After months of classified and unclassified briefings, the China Task Force released a report with 82 key findings and more than 400 forward-looking recommendations. Many of these focus on the CCP's predatory Belt and Road Initiative, which is infamous for its debt trap diplomacy.

Mongolia is a formal participant in this initiative, and China currently supplies the largest portion of their foreign investment. This is why it is essential that the U.S. continue to develop our strategic partnership with Mongolia. We must be their most meaningful third neighbor, and that term describes the Mongolian relationship with countries other than China and Russia.

One of the ways we can do this is by strengthening Mongolia from within by supporting small and medium enterprises and industries like the cashmere production.

This past year, I reintroduced the Mongolia Third Neighbor Trade Act, which would allow duty-free entry of Mongolian cashmere into the United States. This one bill would create over 50,000 jobs, it is estimated, in Mongolia, primarily women jobs, at a cost less than \$1 million over a 10-year period to the American taxpayers.

The cashmere wool industry is particularly important to Mongolia's economy; but while Mongolia produces over one-third of the world's cashmere, almost all finished products are processed and exported from China. Duty-free entry for the United States' imports of Mongolian cashmere would benefit the United States by facilitating increased trade with Mongolia and reducing U.S. imports of Chinese

cashmere products. The measure would likewise benefit Mongolia by reducing Mongolia's economic dependence on China and promoting the development of Mongolia's garment industry, an industry in which 90 percent of workers are women.

We must also offer a better alternative through initiatives like the Third Neighbor Trade Act and this resolution. That is exactly what this bill does by reaffirming our relationship with our like-minded partner, Mongolia. We will never allow adversaries to undermine peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, for over three decades, the relationship between the United States and Mongolia has continued to grow and strengthen. Mongolia is a strong democratic partner in the Indo-Pacific, and the United States has become an important third neighbor.

I would like to congratulate the Mongolian people on their 30th anniversary of democracy and look forward to continuing to build our partnership.

Mongolia's success as a democracy and continued sovereignty is extremely relevant to the security of the United States, the Indo-Pacific region, and the world. For this reason, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to strongly support H. Res. 1100, which recognizes Mongolia's commitment to democracy, security, cooperation, and respect for human rights and reaffirms the important growing partnership between our two nations.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to, once again, thank Ms. TITUS and Mr. YOHO for their leadership on this resolution. I urge all Members to join us in supporting it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1100, as amended.

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

The title of the resolution was amended so as to read: "A resolution reaffirming the importance of the strategic partnership between the United States and Mongolia."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CALLING FOR GLOBAL REPEAL OF BLASPHEMY, HERESY, AND APOSTASY LAWS

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 512) calling for the global repeal of blasphemy, heresy, and apostasy laws, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 512

Whereas Article 18 of the International Declaration of Human Rights states that “[e]veryone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance”;

Whereas many countries continue to have criminal blasphemy laws and punish people who engage in expression deemed by the government to be blasphemous, heretical, apostate, defamatory of religion, or insulting to religion or to religious symbols, figures, or feelings, and such punishment can include fines, imprisonment, and capital punishment including by beheading;

Whereas blasphemy laws have affected Christians, Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Baha’i, secularists, and many other groups, are inconsistent with international human rights standards because they establish and promote official religious orthodoxy and dogma over individual liberty, and often result in violations of the freedoms of religion, thought, and expression that are protected under international instruments, including Articles 18 and 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR);

Whereas the United Nations Human Rights Committee stated in General Comment 34 that “[p]rohibitions of displays of lack of respect for a religion or other belief system, including blasphemy laws, are incompatible with the [ICCPR].”;

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has found that blasphemy charges are often based on false accusations, are used for sectarian or political purposes, and foster religious intolerance, discrimination, and violence;

Whereas USCIRF has found that at least 70 countries had blasphemy laws as of 2018;

Whereas these laws were present in 18 Middle East and North African countries, 8 countries in the Americas, 18 Asia-Pacific countries, 14 European countries, and 12 Sub-Saharan African countries;

Whereas the Pew Research Center found that countries with laws against blasphemy, apostasy, or defamation of religion were more likely to have severe governmental restrictions on religion, and to experience social hostilities based on religion, than countries that did not have such laws;

Whereas restrictive laws beyond those penalizing blasphemy, heresy, and apostasy further limit religious freedom, such as extremism laws—

(1) in Russia that have been used to ban Jehovah’s Witnesses as an extremist organization and fueled persecution of this religious group;

(2) in China, to arbitrarily detain an estimated 800,000 to 2,000,000 Uighur Muslims in internment camps because they followed Islamic rituals and practices; and

(3) in North Korea, to detain an estimated 50,000 to 70,000 Christians in labor camps because they followed the tenets of Christianity;

Whereas an international group of experts convened by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights recommended in 2012 that “[s]tates that have blasphemy laws should repeal the[m] as such laws have a stifling impact on the enjoyment of freedom of religion or belief and healthy dialogue and debate about religion.”;

Whereas blasphemy laws are inconsistent with United Nations resolutions adopted by consensus since 2011 recognizing that religious intolerance is best fought through positive measures, such as education, outreach, and counter-speech, and that criminalization of speech is warranted only for the prevention of imminent violence;

Whereas according to the annual religious freedom report published by the Department of State in 2015, attackers in Bangladesh killed five allegedly anti-Islamic or secularist writers and publishers, and injured three others;

Whereas in response to these killings, the Home Minister of Bangladesh, rather than condemning the murders, called on bloggers and others to refrain from writings that could hurt the religious feelings of others and added that violators of the warning would be subject to prosecution under the restrictive religious freedom laws of Bangladesh;

Whereas a 2016 report by USCIRF on Bangladesh found that religious and civil society groups fear that increasing religious extremism will result in more criminal attacks and threats;

Whereas restrictive religious freedom laws validate and promote social violence targeted at religious minorities and dissenters, whether Christian, Muslim, secularist, or other;

Whereas USCIRF has found that in Pakistan, blasphemy laws have been used to prosecute and persecute Muslims, Christians, secularists, and others;

Whereas according to a Pew Center report on religion and public life, Pakistan stands out for having one of the highest levels of restrictions on religion when both government restrictions and social hostilities are taken into account;

Whereas USCIRF has found egregious examples of the enforcement of blasphemy laws and vigilante violence connected to blasphemy allegations in Pakistan, where blasphemy charges are common and numerous individuals are in prison, with a high percentage sentenced to death or to life in prison;

Whereas, as of May 2018, USCIRF was aware of approximately 40 individuals on death row for blasphemy in Pakistan or serving life sentences;

Whereas Asia Bibi was sentenced to death for blasphemy in 2010 and was held for 8 years, until the Supreme Court of Pakistan overturned her conviction in 2018, upheld her acquittal, and granted her permission to leave the country to flee the threats against her in 2019;

Whereas Pakistan selectively enforces the blasphemy and anti-terrorism laws against minority religious groups, including by specifically targeting Ahmadiyya Muslims such as Abdul Shakoor, an 80-year old optician and bookseller who was recently released after serving over three years in prison on such charges;

Whereas blasphemy laws in Pakistan have fostered a climate of impunity, as those who falsify evidence go unpunished and allegations often result in violent mob attacks or assassinations, with little to no police response;

Whereas in 2017, the Christian Governor of Jakarta, Indonesia, was convicted for blasphemy of Islam and sentenced to two years in jail;

Whereas several countries that maintained blasphemy laws have recently taken steps towards removing these provisions, including Greece, Ireland, and Canada;

Whereas blasphemy laws in the United States were invalidated by the adoption of the First Amendment to the Constitution, which protects the freedoms of thought, con-

science, expression, and religious exercise; and

Whereas the United States has become a beacon of religious freedom and tolerance around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes that blasphemy, heresy, and apostasy laws inappropriately position governments as arbiters of religious truth and empower officials to impose religious dogma on individuals or minorities through the power of the government or through violence sanctioned by the government;

(2) calls on the President and the Secretary of State to make the repeal of blasphemy, heresy, and apostasy laws a priority in the bilateral relationships of the United States with all countries that have such laws, through direct interventions in bilateral and multilateral fora;

(3) encourages the President and the Secretary of State to oppose—

(A) any efforts, by the United Nations or by other international or multilateral fora, to create an international anti-blasphemy norm, such as the “defamation of religions” resolutions introduced in the United Nations between 1999 and 2010; and

(B) any attempts to expand the international norm on incitement to include blasphemy or defamation of religions;

(4) supports efforts by the United Nations to combat intolerance, discrimination, or violence against persons based on religion or belief without restricting expression, including United Nations Human Rights Council Resolution 16/18 (2011) and the Istanbul Process meetings pursuant to such resolution, that are consistent with the First Amendment to the Constitution;

(5) calls on the President and the Secretary of State to designate countries that enforce blasphemy, heresy, or apostasy laws as “countries of particular concern for religious freedom” under section 402(b)(1)(A)(ii) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6442(b)(1)(A)(ii)) for engaging in or tolerating severe violations of religious freedom, as a result of the abuses flowing from the enforcement of such laws and from unpunished vigilante violence often generated by blasphemy allegations;

(6) urges the governments of countries that enforce blasphemy, heresy, or apostasy laws to amend or repeal such laws, as they provide pretext and impunity for vigilante violence against religious minorities; and

(7) urges the governments of countries that have prosecuted, imprisoned, and persecuted people on charges of blasphemy, heresy, or apostasy to release such people unconditionally and, once released, to ensure their safety and that of their families.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RASKIN. 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. Res. 512.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, in this age of partisan division, one of the foundational American values still has the power to bring us together across the aisle: the defense of every human being's freedom of religious conscience and freedom of thought against government persecution. With H. Res. 512, we act today to stand up for religious and intellectual freedom in a world gone mad with religious discrimination, religious oppression, and religious violence.

H. Res. 512 calls for global repeal of laws punishing blasphemy, heresy, and apostasy, three religiously defined thought crimes that have no actual victims and, thus, no place in the criminal law of free nations. Yet governments in 84 countries, from Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Somalia to China, Russia, and Bangladesh, still use laws like these to intimidate, arrest, prosecute, and incarcerate members of minority religions, disfavored faiths, and freethinkers.

Putting people in jail or even condemning them to death for religiously subversive speech was not unknown in American colonies. In Massachusetts, Puritan Governors hanged Quakers for their heretical lectures in town squares.

But our enlightenment Constitution, especially our First Amendment free exercise and antireligious establishment clauses, put us squarely on the path of rejecting blasphemy laws and these other relics of inquisition, holy crusades, and New England witchcraft trials. Our law has gotten rid of obsolete offenses like blasphemy and apostasy because they have a purely religious character and do not refer to empirical social harms.

Blasphemy is making impious or sacrilegious statements about established churches or doctrines.

Heresy is taking religious or intellectual positions at odds with an established religious orthodoxy.

Apostasy is breaking away from a religious orthodoxy or a church.

As offensive as we might consider other people's religious views and utterances, in America today, people's thoughts and words about religion are absolutely protected by the First Amendment. But in many parts of the world where religion is still actively weaponized by theocratic and authoritarian governments, these imaginary offenses can still get you thrown into jail, harassed, and executed, or simply stopped and torn limb from limb by state-sanctioned lynch mobs.

Religious people of the wrong faith are the most common victims of blasphemy and heresy laws.

You might be a practicing Christian or Hindu, Mr. Speaker, in an officially Muslim state like Libya or Afghanistan or a devout Muslim in a Hindu society like India. You might be a non-religious person targeted by your enemies or state authorities.

You might be a 22-year-old Nigerian gospel musician like Yahaya Sharif-Aminu, who was convicted of blas-

phemy in a state sharia court in Kano State on August 10 and has been sentenced to death by hanging for something he said on a WhatsApp group on the internet.

Mr. Speaker, you might be a Sudanese Christian like Mariam Ibrahim, who was jailed for apostasy because, although she had been a devout Christian for her entire life, government officials demanded that she follow her absent father's Muslim faith. She was held in jail with her 20-month-old son and forced to give birth to her daughter in prison while her legs were shackled to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, you might be a 13-year-old Muslim boy in Nigeria like Omar Farouq, who was sentenced to 10 years at hard labor for blasphemy when he said something about Allah in an argument with friends, a brutal miscarriage of justice condemned by UNICEF and child advocates all over the world.

You might even belong to the wrong sect of the official state religion. In the Islamic State of Pakistan, for example, people belonging to the Ahmadiyya Muslim faith are being persecuted as heretics and apostates as if this were the Middle Ages.

At least five Ahmadiyya Muslims have been killed in Pakistan this year alone because of their faith, including Tahir Ahmad Naseem, an American citizen who was murdered in broad daylight in a courtroom while standing trial for blasphemy charges just for practicing his own religion. While his teenage killer was arrested, he is being celebrated now as a martyr by the media and members of the police service who watched him kill Naseem.

Mr. Speaker, the global assault on religious and intellectual freedom today is taking place in many of the world's largest countries:

China confines millions of Uighur Muslims in miserable reeducation camps and forces them into slave labor in Xinjiang province;

Russia has decreed that Jehovah's Witnesses are an extremist group and confiscated their property, jailed their members, and even allegedly tortured some of them;

India recently passed draconian laws burdening the rights of disfavored Muslim minorities.

With this resolution, Mr. Speaker, against the new wave of global religious oppression and persecution, America can once again take the lead in defending the basic human rights of religious and intellectual freedom all over the world.

James Madison, the author of our First Amendment, denounced that "diabolical, hell-conceived principle of persecution," and he stated in his remonstrance against religious assessments that "the religion . . . of every man must be left to the conviction and conscience of every man."

Let us share this principle with the nations of the world with this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the right to practice one's faith is the most fundamental freedom there is. There is a reason our Founding Fathers made it the First Amendment: Our Founders understood that someone's right to worship was sacred and should belong to all people regardless of their faith.

If religious freedom is taken away, all other freedoms are subject to being taken away also. It is just that simple.

Unfortunately, religious freedom still does not exist everywhere. Today, religious minorities are persecuted all over the globe.

According to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, about one-third of the countries around the world still have laws against blasphemy. In many dictatorships, people are not allowed to worship anything but the state. To do so would be seen as a threat to the government because they do not recognize a higher power.

As a result, religious minorities are targeted in some countries with severe brutality. People are being beaten, arrested, and tortured. Houses of worship are razed and destroyed. In countries like Iran, Pakistan, and others, ascribing to a different religion could mean the death penalty. In other places, it can mean forced labor or a public whipping.

This is simply unacceptable. Today, the House has an opportunity to stand up for religious freedom around the world.

This is an important resolution. This resolution makes the repeal of blasphemy, heresy, and apostasy laws a priority everywhere. It designates countries that enforce such laws as countries of particular concern for religious freedom and calls on all governments to release religious prisoners of conscience.

The United States has always been a leader when it comes to religious freedom. Today, we have a chance to lead again and to tell the world that we will not stand for religious intolerance.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support H. Res. 512, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1230

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his very thoughtful and eloquent statement in defense of religious freedom, the value that unites us behind this powerful resolution, which will put the government squarely back in the fight to defend religious liberty all over the world and to oppose the spread of these blasphemy laws that are being used to persecute innocent people all over the globe.

Mr. Speaker, in our country, the religious Free Exercise Clause and the clause against establishment of religion stand best when they stand together because they both stand for the

principle that no particular religious sect can seize control of state power and then persecute members of other religious groups, but that is what is happening in so many places all over the world.

Mr. Speaker, our experience in the separation of church and state and standing up for the free exercise of religion is something that we can continue to proudly promote to the rest of the world, and we do have something that we think we can teach other nations that want to follow the path of democracy and freedom.

As the U.S. works to advance human rights, it is critical that we put this question of freedom of thought, freedom of conscience right at the heart of our efforts. Everyone must be able to practice their faith—or no faith at all—without the threat of government violence and persecution.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this excellent measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a co-sponsor and a senior Member of the House of Representatives, I rise in strong support of this bipartisan resolution, H. Res. 512, "Calling for the global repeal of blasphemy, heresy, and apostasy laws".

First and foremost, I would like to recognize and thank Congressman JAMIE RASKIN for his leadership on this vital resolution.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution calls upon the President and the Department of State to prioritize the repeal of blasphemy, heresy, and apostasy laws in bilateral relationships between the United States and countries that have such laws.

It also designates countries that enforce such laws as "countries of particular concern" with respect to religious freedom.

Furthermore, H. Res. 512 opposes efforts by the United Nations to implement an international anti-blasphemy norm.

Lastly, the resolution calls on the governments of countries that enforce such laws to either amend or repeal them as well as to release anyone imprisoned pursuant to them.

Blasphemy laws, as is noted in the resolution, lead to religious intolerance, discrimination and violence.

Moreover, these laws are often weaponized to target marginalized religious communities.

Charges can be based on false accusations and are commonly brought forth for sectarian or political purposes.

In 2019, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom released its 20th Annual Report, recommending that the U.S. Department of State designate sixteen nations as "countries of particular concern" due to their severe suppression of religious freedom.

For example: In Burma, a predominantly Buddhist nation, the Rohingya Muslim people have been subject to what the U.N. high commissioner for human rights has called "a textbook example of ethnic cleansing";

In China, over 1 million ethnic Uyghur and Kazakh Muslims have been arbitrarily detained in concentration camps styled as "political education" camps, where they are subject to torture and inhumane conditions;

In Iran, the Baha'i community is treated by the government as a band of heretics, and, as

of February 2017, at least 90 Baha'i were held in prison solely for their religious beliefs;

In Russia, Jehovah's Witnesses have been banned as an extremist group, and their properties have been seized and liquidated by order of the government. Dozens of individuals have been arrested on extremism charges and remain in custody or under house arrest; and

The right to worship freely is one of the founding and most essential principles of the United States.

As the world's oldest democracy, America has a responsibility to protect the freedoms of speech, expression, and religion against official persecution around the world.

Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have been a fierce defender of human rights, and this resolution is a small but important step in safeguarding the individual freedoms of choosing one's religion, or no religion at all, as well as worshipping and thinking freely no matter where you live.

With this in mind, I am proud to be a leader on this resolution, and I urge all Members on both sides of the aisle to join me in voting for H. Res. 512, "Calling for the global repeal of blasphemy, heresy, and apostasy laws."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 512, 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. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 965, the yeas and nays are ordered.

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

CONDEMNING IRAN'S STATE-SPONSORED PERSECUTION OF ITS BAHAI MINORITY

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 823) condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 823

Whereas, in 1982, 1984, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1996, 2000, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018, Congress declared that it deplored the religious persecution by the Government of Iran of the Baha'i community and would hold the Government of Iran responsible for upholding the rights of all Iranian nationals, including members of the Baha'i faith;

Whereas, since 1979, Iranian authorities have killed or executed more than 200 Baha'i leaders, and more than 10,000 have been dismissed from government and university jobs;

Whereas the Report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

(A/74/188) dated July 18, 2019, provides, in part—

(1) the Iranian authorities and the Iranian criminal justice system regard the Baha'is as "unprotected infidels"; the Baha'i faith is also "regarded as a misguided sect"; and "Baha'i worship and religious practices are deemed heresy";

(2) "Baha'is have been murdered with impunity and violations of their human rights have not been investigated.";

(3) members of the Baha'i faith "frequently face charges, such as, 'breaching national security', 'propaganda against the holy regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran', or 'propaganda activities against the regime in the interests of the Baha'i sect'";

(4) "Since August 2005, more than 1,168 Baha'is have been arrested and charged with vaguely worded offences.";

(5) "There were a total of 95 Baha'is reportedly arrested in 2018, compared with at least 84 in 2017 and 81 in 2016.";

(6) "On 1 January 2019, the court of appeal of Isfahan reportedly condemned, in separate judgments, nine Baha'i citizens to a total of 48 years of prison. They had been charged with 'membership of the illegal Baha'i community and propaganda against the regime by spreading the Baha'i faith in the society.'";

(7) directed by a 2007 letter from the Security Unit of the Public Place Supervision Office of the Islamic Republic of Iran to police commanders throughout the country, Iranian authorities continue to apply economic pressure against the Baha'i community, by banning them from specific professions and "halting their entry to 'high earning businesses'"; and

(8) "Since 2013, there have been more than 803 incidents of violations of economic rights of the Baha'is, including arbitrary shop closures, unfair dismissals from employment and the actual or threatened revocation of business licenses.";

Whereas the Department of State's International Religious Freedom Report for 2019, Iran section, provides, in part—

(1) "Non-Shia Muslims and those affiliated with a religion other than Islam, especially members of the Baha'i community, continued to face societal discrimination and harassment, and employers experienced social pressures not to hire Baha'is or to dismiss them from their private sector jobs."; and

(2) "The law bars Baha'is from founding their own educational institutions. A Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology order requires universities to exclude Baha'is from access to higher education or expel them if their religious affiliation becomes known.";

Whereas, on March 11, 2020, the Department of State released the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2019 and, in connection with Iran, the report provides, in part—

(1) Iranian authorities "barred Baha'i students from higher education", and in 2019, denied enrollment to at least 22 Baha'i college applicants solely because of their religious affiliation despite passing the national admissions test;

(2) "The country materially contributed to human rights abuses . . . in Yemen, through its support for Houthi rebels and directing authorities in Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen to harass and detain Baha'is because of their religious affiliation."; and

(3) "In July 2019, Iran Wire, a human rights reporting agency, reported the case of Hamed Rezvani, a Baha'i musician and teacher, who left his home in Isfahan in December 2018 and has not been heard from since. Repeated requests by the Rezvani family for information from police and local intelligence have not produced any information about his disappearance.";

Whereas according to the 2020 Annual Report of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)—

(1) “There are more than 300,000 Baha’is in Iran, who together constitute the largest non-Muslim religious minority in the country.”;

(2) “Security forces also prevented the burial of two deceased Baha’i individuals in a Baha’i cemetery in Kerman after it was sealed in March 2018. In October, the body of a deceased Baha’i woman was exhumed four days after her burial and abandoned in a desert area outside the town of Jaban.”;

(3) There is a “particular uptick in the persecution of Baha’is”, including of local government officials who advocated on behalf of Baha’is, and the Iranian government blamed Baha’is, without evidence, for wide-spread popular protests in 2019; and

(4) “In July 2019, Twitter banned several official Iranian media accounts for incitement against Baha’is in Iran.”;

Whereas the Baha’i International Community documented a more than 50 percent increase in hate propaganda directed against the Baha’is in the twelve-month period ending August 2020 compared to prior years with more than 9,500 such articles, videos, or web pages appearing in Iranian government-controlled or government-sponsored media;

Whereas Iran is a member of the United Nations and a signatory to both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, among other international human rights treaties, without reservation;

Whereas section 105 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8514) authorizes the President to impose sanctions on individuals “responsible for or complicit in, or responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, the commission of serious human rights abuses against citizens of Iran or their family members on or after June 12, 2009”;

Whereas the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-158) amends and expands the authorities established under the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 to sanction Iranian human rights abusers; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns the Government of Iran’s state-sponsored persecution of its Baha’i minority and its continued violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

(2) calls on the Government of Iran—

(A) to immediately release all imprisoned or detained Baha’is, together with all other prisoners held solely on account of their religion;

(B) to end its state-sponsored campaign of hate propaganda against the Baha’is; and

(C) to reverse state-imposed policies denying Baha’is and members of other religious minorities equal opportunities to higher education, earning a livelihood, due process under the law, and the free exercise of religious practices;

(3) calls on the President and the Secretary of State, in cooperation with responsible nations, to continue to condemn the Government of Iran’s continued violation of human rights and demand the immediate release of prisoners held solely on account of their religion; and

(4) urges the President and the Secretary of State to utilize available authorities to impose sanctions on officials of the Government of Iran and other individuals directly responsible for serious human rights abuses, including abuses against the Baha’i community of Iran.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHIO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 823.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution condemning the government of Iran’s persecution of its besieged Baha’i minority. I thank all of my colleagues who have worked on this, including on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Mr. DEUTCH and Mr. WILSON, for their leadership on this measure.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Iran has carried out an inhumane campaign of religious persecution against the Baha’i minority, its largest non-Muslim religious minority in the country. The regime has closed Baha’i-owned shops and stores, forbidden Baha’i citizens from holding government jobs, and denied Baha’i children access to school. Members of the Baha’i community have been unjustly arrested and prosecuted and executed, targeted solely for their religious beliefs.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. stands for the freedom of religious exercise, and we must speak up in the face of this theocratic injustice. We cannot forget those who struggled for their basic religious freedom and civil liberty in Iran.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution sends a strong message to the Iranian Government that the Government of the United States will not remain silent in the face of such terrible oppression. It calls for the immediate release of all imprisoned or detained Baha’is, and urges sanctions on Iranian officials and others who are responsible for these human rights abuses, including abuses against the Baha’i community.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bipartisan resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, this body is no stranger to the human rights abuses committed by the Iranian regime. The Islamic Republic of Iran is the world’s largest state sponsor of terror and has regularly attacked and detained those who disagree with them, including even their own people and American citizens.

Today, we focus on the regime’s religious persecution of the Baha’i, Iran’s largest religious minority group. The Baha’i in Iran are regularly subject to

arbitrary interrogations and arrests without due process. They are often denied employment and access to higher education. Their cemeteries have been vandalized, and many of their leaders have been executed. Moreover, Iranian state media publishes anti-Baha’i hate propaganda, exposing them to prejudices and even potentially violent attacks by their neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, the Trump administration has admirably used sanctions to punish Iran’s human rights abusers, but we cannot let up until all people in Iran, including the Baha’i, have the right to practice their faith freely. With this resolution, we vow to continue to hold human rights abusers accountable, including those who target the Baha’i.

The Iranian regime must end their persecution of the Baha’i by releasing those who have been illegally imprisoned, by ending their hate-filled propaganda campaign against the Baha’i, and by reversing policies that the Baha’is equal opportunity.

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

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

Mr. YOHIO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT).

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for his leadership on this very important topic.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 823, which condemns the Iranian Government’s persecution of the Baha’i minority. As an original cosponsor of this measure myself, I thank Mr. DEUTCH and Mr. WILSON for their work to bring it to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, as a former chairman of the Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa and International Terrorism myself, I have long observed how the Iranian Government has repressed its own people, stifled their voices and their freedoms, and systematically abused human rights. Nowhere is this more evident than in the mullahs’ persecution of members of the Baha’i faith.

Mr. Speaker, since the Iranian Revolution, Iran has executed hundreds of Baha’is, while 10,000 Baha’is have been dismissed from their jobs, and a number of their holy sites have been desecrated. Baha’is also have seen their homes and businesses raided, their children prohibited from attending college, and their property confiscated. This cruel persecution comes despite the fact that Iran has nothing to fear from the Baha’i. The Baha’i faith espouses the values of peace and unity, cooperation, education, interfaith harmony, and an end to prejudice. Wherever Baha’is live, they strive to be good citizens, devoted to service and universal respect for all people.

Mr. Speaker, this includes here in the United States. Since arriving over 120 years ago, members of the Baha’i faith

have established themselves as patriotic and productive citizens in all 50 States. I want to specifically honor the Baha'i community in my community in Cincinnati. One of their churches is about a mile down the street from my home, and I have had the opportunity to meet their representatives several times and come to learn how they have enriched our city of Cincinnati back home.

With these values and contributions in mind, the Iranian persecution of the Baha'i is clearly barbaric and shows the true nature of that wicked regime in Iran.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me and join others on both sides of the aisle in condemning the persecution by supporting this resolution.

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

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, one of the principles this country was founded upon was the freedom to worship. This is a right that people all around the world should have, including the people of Iran. Resolutions like this remind the world that the United States of America will not turn a blind eye to religious persecution.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) for their leadership in introducing this bipartisan resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support H. Res. 823, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, thank Mr. DEUTCH and Mr. WILSON for their hard work on this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, American foreign policy must work to advance and protect basic human rights around the world, including religious freedom and the rights of religious minorities. When we see human rights violations, like the ones the Iranian Government has inflicted on the Baha'i community, we must speak out. We must pursue justice for the victims and we must hold the perpetrators accountable. We must defend people nonviolently exercising their faith against governments violently imposing their will on the public.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution is a step in the direction of aggressive defense of human rights, and I am pleased to support it. I urge all of our colleagues to support this bipartisan measure.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 823, as amended.

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

The title of the resolution was amended so as to read: "A resolution

condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING IMPORTANCE OF SUSTAINED UNITED STATES LEADERSHIP TO ACCELERATING GLOBAL PROGRESS AGAINST MATERNAL AND CHILD MALNUTRITION

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 189) recognizing the importance of sustained United States leadership to accelerating global progress against maternal and child malnutrition and supporting United States Agency for International Development's commitment to global nutrition through its multi-sectoral nutrition strategy, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 189

Whereas 151 million children under the age of 5 in the world—22 percent—are stunted, or chronically undernourished, and in countries highly affected by undernutrition, stunting affects 1 in every 3 children;

Whereas wasting, or acute malnutrition, continues to threaten the lives of an estimated 7.5 percent or nearly 51 million children under the age of 5 globally, and more than 38 million children under the age of 5 are overweight;

Whereas malnutrition directly or indirectly causes 45 percent of all deaths—2.6 million—of children under age 5 annually and puts those who survive at risk of impaired brain development, lower IQ, weakened immune systems, and greater risk of serious diseases;

Whereas undernourished adolescent girls have impaired cognitive ability and productivity and their future babies are at increased risk for low birth weight and death;

Whereas iron deficiency anemia, associated with undernutrition, contributes to 1 in 5 maternal deaths (or 20 percent of maternal mortality);

Whereas poor maternal nutrition contributes to poor fetal development and low birth weight, and an estimated 60 to 80 percent of neonatal deaths occur in low birth weight babies;

Whereas a large body of scientific evidence supports the benefits of improved breastfeeding practices on the short-term and long-term health and development of children and their mothers;

Whereas a growing evidence base demonstrates that reducing maternal and child malnutrition, especially in the critical 1,000 days between pregnancy and age 2, is imperative to ending preventable maternal and child deaths, improving cognitive and physical development, and strengthening children's immune systems to bolster resistance to disease;

Whereas leading economists and Nobel Laureates have identified improving child nutrition as the most cost-effective way to enhance global health and development;

Whereas the United States Agency for International Development's Multi-Sectoral

Nutrition Strategy's approach addresses both direct and underlying causes of malnutrition, and its focus on linking humanitarian assistance with development programming helps build resilience to shocks in vulnerable communities;

Whereas malnutrition is a universal issue that no country in the world can afford to overlook, and countries with high burdens of malnutrition, including stunting, wasting, anemia, and micronutrient deficiency, will struggle to achieve sustainable and equitable economic growth;

Whereas the United States plays a lead role supporting the goals of Scaling Up Nutrition, a global movement of 60 countries to prioritize nutrition, particularly during the 1,000-day window of opportunity between a mother's pregnancy and her child's second birthday, through effective policy and dedicated national resources; and

Whereas the world has reduced undernutrition since 1990, yet global progress has been too slow to ensure each child can attain a full and prosperous future regardless of where he or she was born and at the current pace, the global community will not reach its global nutrition targets set for 2025: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) reaffirms that—

(A) food security and good nutrition in early childhood saves lives and lays the foundation for healthy physical and cognitive growth and development;

(B) the potential benefit of good nutrition is life-long and influences a child's entire future, with entire communities and nations ultimately prospering;

(C) the right nutrition helps children learn, helps protect them from illness, increases their productivity and earning potential, and supports the well-being and health of their future offspring; and

(D) women who are well-nourished and do not suffer from anemia are less likely to die in childbirth and to give birth to children who are malnourished, breaking the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition;

(2) reaffirms that—

(A) good nutrition is also an economic issue central to reducing poverty and putting countries on path to economic development;

(B) adults who were well-nourished as children earn up to 46 percent more than those who were malnourished;

(C) countries with a very high burden of early childhood malnutrition have lower economic growth rates due to lost income and productivity; and

(D) the cost to nations is substantial with Gross Domestic Product (GDP) losses estimated between 3 to 16 percent with overall potential impacts to the global economy as high as \$3.5 trillion per year;

(3) supports United States leadership in helping developing countries meet the nutritional needs of women and children, and supports continued efforts;

(4) supports United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) recognition that nutrition interventions are among the lifesaving interventions that can have the greatest impact in ending preventable child and maternal deaths;

(5) supports the use of the USAID Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy, the United States Government Global Nutrition Coordination Plan, and the Global Food Security Strategy as platforms through which to help reach global nutrition targets by 2025, as agreed to at the World Health Assembly in 2012;

(6) acknowledges the vision and goals of the Scaling Up Nutrition movement as a

global partnership to support country-led efforts to improve maternal and child nutrition involving governments, civil society, the United Nations, donors, businesses, and researchers;

(7) acknowledges that progress against global malnutrition must be accelerated using innovative, scaled-up approaches to improve the systems that affect the nutritional status of women and children; and

(8) calls for transformative efforts across sectors at USAID—

(A) to accelerate progress to end maternal and child malnutrition, including through Country Development Cooperation Strategies that align with country's national nutrition plans; and

(B) to include improved and clear methods to track nutrition funding and outcomes across all United States Government global nutrition programs, especially those in global health, food security, agriculture, basic education, food assistance, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. McCAUL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. 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. Res. 189.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, malnutrition is a devastating crisis across the world with far-reaching effects. People cannot lead full, healthy, productive lives without access to food and proper nutrition, especially in the early stages of life. The impacts of malnutrition extend from health challenges like child stunting and infant mortality to reduced economic productivity that can keep communities and countries from achieving greater prosperity.

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That is why we cannot afford to have our international development programs look at malnutrition as an isolated problem. To tackle this crisis, particularly as we continue to grapple with the coronavirus pandemic, we also have to address related economic, educational, health, and social issues.

This good resolution, authored by Representative MARSHALL, outlines the importance of continued American leadership in the fight against global malnutrition and underscores the significance of USAID's work on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support it, and I urge my colleagues to do the same. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, all of us in this Chamber probably grew up with a mother telling us to eat our vegetables. As a

father myself, I have very strong memories of chasing several of my children around the house, trying to get healthy food into their mouths. That is because, as we know, a child's growth and development is severely impacted when they don't have proper nutrition.

Unfortunately, today, over 151 million children under the age of 5—babies, really—suffer from chronic malnutrition. That is truly a shocking and disturbing number. Over the last three decades, there has been important progress to reduce chronic malnutrition around the world, but, clearly, much more must be done.

That is why I am proud to be here today to offer my support for this resolution, introduced by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), which calls for increased efforts to end maternal and child malnutrition.

The United States has always been a leader when it comes to addressing maternal and child malnutrition. We must continue our leadership role in this important endeavor.

The USAID multi-sectoral nutrition strategy is an important effort to ensure that nutrition interventions are effective in reaching the most vulnerable populations.

I want to thank the chairman, and I want to thank my colleagues, Representatives MARSHALL and MCGOVERN, for leading this important resolution and bringing this to the floor.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, malnutrition around the world devastates the lives of millions of people and prevents communities from prospering. This problem has been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, putting years of work on nutrition at risk.

It is critical that the United States work to make even greater progress on this major humanitarian and developmental challenge. This resolution reaffirms the importance of American leadership in that mission.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support it, and I urge my colleagues to do the same. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the sponsor of this resolution.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, as a physician and obstetrician, I represent one of the largest agriculture-producing districts in the country. I am proud to help lead H. Res. 189, a critical resolution addressing the health and development of children around the world and a role the United States must continue to play to improve maternal and child nutrition.

Every year, malnutrition accounts for half of all deaths among children under the age of 5. Nearly a quarter of the world's children are stunted, both physically and mentally, due to malnutrition. This leads to long-term poor

health and impaired brain development.

Mr. Speaker, food is medicine. The 1,000 days stretching from conception, from the start of a mother's pregnancy, until the child turns 2, is critical to increasing child survival, strengthening the immune system to bolster disease resistance, and improving the child's ability to grow, learn, and live to their fullest potential.

Investments that focus on the first year of a child's life are among the best and most cost-effective investments that can be made to help achieve lasting progress in global health, economic prosperity, and development.

The USDA and the USAID oversee America's longstanding commitment to reducing hunger and improving global food security. Our international feeding programs originated in my home State of Kansas, in Cheyenne County, when a group of farmers presented the idea of distributing food, rather than just funding, to countries to help their populations thrive.

Programs like the USAID's Food for Peace and USDA's McGovern-Dole Food for Education provide basic humanitarian aid to families, women, and children worldwide and help our farmers and ranchers reach more markets for the high-quality commodities they produce. The U.S. exports about \$140 billion worth of agricultural products each year, thanks to the hard work of farmers and their partnership with USDA and USAID.

Not only are U.S. investments in nutrition efficient and effective, but U.S. nutrition programs also leverage other investments in foreign assistance, increasing the impact on improving health globally, which can lead to countries lessening their dependence on foreign aid and thriving economically.

However, the COVID-19 outbreak threatens achievements made by many USDA and USAID programs due to restrictions to supply chains that are stressing food markets and placing people suffering from hunger on the brink of starvation.

The cost of malnutrition to the global economy is estimated to be \$3.5 trillion in healthcare costs and lost productivity every year, and COVID-19 is only making it more challenging to address.

Fortunately, help is on the way. This week, we hope the FDA will approve and review the emergency use authorization for vaccine candidates. Meanwhile, we have all got work to do.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the committee and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), my good friend, and our 154 cosponsors for bringing our resolution to the House floor.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), the author of this important resolution and the co-chairman of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to thank Mr. ENGEL for his incredible service, not only to this Nation, but to the world.

Mr. ENGEL has been a champion for human rights, for diplomacy, and for all things good. This institution is a better place because he has served here. There are countless people around the world who are safe because of his advocacy on their behalf when they have been unjustly imprisoned or targeted unjustly. I want him to know how much I admire him and how much I appreciate his service.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 189, introduced by my good friend and colleague, Congressman ROGER MARSHALL, and me, in support of U.S. leadership and USAID's commitment to advancing global maternal and child nutrition.

I am very proud that this bill has 154 cosponsors, which is a strong statement of support for continuing U.S. leadership.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Congressman MARSHALL on moving on to the Senate next year. I hope we will continue our bipartisan partnership to ending hunger here at home and around the world. He has been a valuable member of the House Hunger Caucus. In case he doesn't already know it, there is a similar caucus over in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, the world has made impressive progress on improving nutrition in the past decade, thanks in part to strong U.S. leadership and a bipartisan commitment here in Congress to address these issues. The COVID-19 pandemic threatens to reverse all of the world's hard-won nutrition gains and leave an entire generation in danger of being seriously mentally, emotionally, and physically impaired.

In a world where we produce enough food to feed everyone, 821 million people, 1 in 9, still go to bed on an empty stomach each night. Even more, one in three, suffer from some form of malnutrition. Based on current trends, this number is set to rise to one in every two by 2025.

Eradicating hunger and malnutrition is surely one of the great challenges of our time. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the world risks backsliding even more on nutrition.

In July, *The Lancet* published an article with estimates showing that wasting among malnourished children could rise by 14.3 percent if we do not act now. This would translate to an estimated additional 6.7 million wasted children during the first 12 months of the pandemic and more than 10,000 additional child deaths per month during this same period.

According to the World Health Organization, 52 percent of the world's nations have reported disruptions in health and nutrition services for sick and malnourished children.

But there is always hope, Mr. Speaker, to change the course of these trends.

We are in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic and the U.N. Decade of Action on Nutrition, 2016 to 2025. This gives us a historic opportunity to adapt, reimagine, and invest more in the fight against child and maternal malnutrition.

H. Res. 189 recognizes the importance of these challenges and the need for continued U.S. leadership. The resolution urges USAID to fully implement the multi-sectoral nutrition strategy to improve global nutrition.

I am sure that I speak for all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle that we all support strengthening U.S. efforts to protect women and children from malnutrition and related deaths.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 189 on global nutrition.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to thank organizations like Bread for the World, the Eleanor Crook Foundation, Catholic Relief Services, and many others around the world. These are the people who implement and advocate for these critical nutrition interventions.

As the world grapples with the impact of COVID-19, it is more important than ever that we ramp up our fight to end chronic malnutrition.

I have been proud to support this critical work, including advocating for nutrition programs in annual appropriations bills. I look forward to continuing to support these efforts.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 189 is a very important resolution. I support it and encourage my colleagues to do so as well. I think that both sides of the aisle understand how important this is, and it is good to see us working together.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior Member of the House of Representatives and the founding chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I rise in strong support of this bipartisan resolution, H. Res. 189, "Recognizing the importance of sustained United States leadership to accelerating global progress against maternal and child malnutrition and supporting United States Agency for International Development's commitment to global nutrition through its multisectoral nutrition strategy."

First and foremost, I would like to recognize and thank Congressmen ROGER MARSHALL and JIM MCGOVERN for their leadership on this vital resolution.

By passing H. Res. 189 today, we are committing ourselves to improving the health of women and children in impoverished areas, helping prevent illness, and improving economic conditions in poorer countries.

With that in mind, I wish to commend the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) maternal and child nutrition programs that seek to improve health outcomes by implementing nutrition-specific interventions, or those that address the immediate, health-related determinants of undernutrition.

These critical investments are closely coordinated with USAID's nutrition-sensitive interventions that address underlying or systemic causes of inadequate nutrition, such as education, water, sanitation, and hygiene, agriculture, as well as the healthy timing and spacing of pregnancy.

It is no secret that poverty amplifies the risk of, and risks from, malnutrition.

People who are poor are more likely to be affected by different forms of malnutrition.

Furthermore, malnutrition increases health care costs, reduces productivity, and slows economic growth, which can perpetuate a cycle of poverty and ill-health.

Malnutrition can have several negative and deadly effects such as decreased cognitive development in newborns, greater vulnerability to disease and other issues.

Women, infants, children, and adolescents are at particular risk of malnutrition.

Optimizing nutrition early in life, especially from the 1,000 days from conception to a child's second birthday ensures the best possible start in life, with long-term benefits.

For example, adults who were not malnourished as children earn nearly 46 percent more than their counterparts, as stated in the resolution.

According to UNICEF, nearly half of all deaths in children under 5 are attributable to undernutrition.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I stood here today without addressing the global impact of COVID-19 on malnutrition.

Today, the significant and life-altering shocks created by the pandemic and the necessary containment measures have meant that more vulnerable children are facing malnourishment, as efforts to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 have resulted in the disruption of food systems, thereby upending health and nutrition services, devastating livelihoods, as well as threatening food security.

As of July 2020, an estimated 370 million children were missing school meals, which have been directly tied to improving students' health and nutrition while also helping them develop good eating habits.

Recent estimates from UNICEF indicate that in addition to the 690 million undernourished people in 2019, at least another 83 million people, and possibly as many as 132 million, may go hungry in 2020.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution is needed now more than ever, and I am proud to be here and voice my support for it.

I urge all Members on both sides of the aisle to join me in voting for H. Res. 189, "Recognizing the importance of sustained United States leadership to accelerating global progress against maternal and child malnutrition and supporting United States Agency for International Development's commitment to global nutrition through its multi-sectoral nutrition strategy."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 189, as amended.

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

The title of the resolution was amended so as to read: "A resolution

supporting sustained United States leadership to accelerating global progress against maternal and child malnutrition and supporting United States Agency for International Development's commitment to global nutrition through its multi-sectoral nutrition strategy.”.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONG KONG PEOPLE'S FREEDOM AND CHOICE ACT OF 2020

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8428) to provide for temporary protected status for residents of Hong Kong, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8428

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 “Hong Kong People's Freedom and Choice Act of 2020”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this Act:

(1) **JOINT DECLARATION.**—The term “Joint Declaration” means the Joint Declaration of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Question of Hong Kong, signed on December 19, 1984, and entered into force on May 27, 1985.

(2) **PRIORITY HONG KONG RESIDENT.**—The term “Priority Hong Kong resident” means—

(A) a permanent resident of Hong Kong who—

(i) holds no right to citizenship in any country or jurisdiction other than the People's Republic of China (referred to in this Act as “PRC”), Hong Kong, or Macau as of the date of enactment of this Act;

(ii) has resided in Hong Kong for not less than the last 10 years as of the date of enactment of this Act; and

(iii) has been designated by the Secretary of State or Secretary of Homeland Security as having met the requirements of this subparagraph, in accordance with the procedures described in section 7 of this Act; or

(B) the spouse of a person described in subparagraph (A), or the child of such person as such term is defined in section 101(b)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(b)(1)), except that a child shall be an unmarried person under twenty-seven years of age.

(3) **HONG KONG NATIONAL SECURITY LAW.**—The term “Hong Kong National Security Law” means the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region that was passed unanimously by the National People's Congress and signed by President Xi Jinping on June 30, 2020, and promulgated in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (referred to in this Act as “Hong Kong SAR”) on July 1, 2020.

(4) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Hong Kong National Security Law promulgated on July 1, 2020—

(A) contravenes the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (referred to in this Act as “the Basic Law”) that provides in Article 23 that the Legislative Council of Hong Kong shall enact legislation related to national security;

(B) violates the PRC's commitments under international law, as defined by the Joint Declaration; and

(C) causes severe and irreparable damage to the “one country, two systems” principle and further erodes global confidence in the PRC's commitment to international law.

(2) On July 14, 2020, in response to the promulgation of the Hong Kong National Security Law, President Trump signed an Executive order on Hong Kong normalization that, among other policy actions, suspended the special treatment of Hong Kong persons under U.S. law with respect to the issuance of immigrant and nonimmigrant visas.

(3) The United States has a long and proud history as a destination for refugees and asylees fleeing persecution based on race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.

(4) The United States also shares deep social, cultural, and economic ties with the people of Hong Kong, including a shared commitment to democracy, to the rule of law, and to the protection of human rights.

(5) The United States has sheltered, protected, and welcomed individuals who have fled authoritarian regimes, including citizens from the PRC following the violent June 4, 1989, crackdown in Tiananmen Square, deepening ties between the people of the United States and those individuals seeking to contribute to a free, open society founded on democracy, human rights, and the respect for the rule of law.

(6) The United States has reaped enormous economic, cultural, and strategic benefits from welcoming successive generations of scientists, doctors, entrepreneurs, artists, intellectuals, and other freedom-loving people fleeing fascism, communism, violent Islamist extremism, and other repressive ideologies, including in the cases of Nazi Germany, the Soviet Union, and Soviet-controlled Central Europe, Cuba, Vietnam, and Iran.

(7) A major asymmetric advantage of the United States in its long-term strategic competition with the Communist Party of China is the ability of people from every country in the world, irrespective of their race, ethnicity, or religion, to immigrate to the United States and become American citizens.

SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to reaffirm the principles and objectives set forth in the United States-Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-383), namely that—

(A) the United States has “a strong interest in the continued vitality, prosperity, and stability of Hong Kong”; and

(B) “support for democratization is a fundamental principle of United States foreign policy” and therefore “naturally applies to United States policy toward Hong Kong”; and

(C) “the human rights of the people of Hong Kong are of great importance to the United States and are directly relevant to United States interests in Hong Kong and serve as a basis for Hong Kong's continued economic prosperity”; and

(D) Hong Kong must remain sufficiently autonomous from the PRC to “justify treatment under a particular law of the United States, or any provision thereof, different

from that accorded the People's Republic of China”;

(2) to continue to support the high degree of autonomy and fundamental rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong, as enumerated by—

(A) the Joint Declaration;

(B) the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, done at New York December 19, 1966; and

(C) the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, done at Paris December 10, 1948;

(3) to continue to support the democratic aspirations of the people of Hong Kong, including the “ultimate aim” of the selection of the Chief Executive and all members of the Legislative Council by universal suffrage, as articulated in the Basic Law;

(4) to urge the Government of the PRC, despite its recent actions, to uphold its commitments to Hong Kong, including allowing the people of Hong Kong to govern Hong Kong with a high degree of autonomy and without undue interference, and ensuring that Hong Kong voters freely enjoy the right to elect the Chief Executive and all members of the Hong Kong Legislative Council by universal suffrage;

(5) to support the establishment of a genuine democratic option to freely and fairly nominate and elect the Chief Executive of Hong Kong, and the establishment of open and direct democratic elections for all members of the Hong Kong Legislative Council;

(6) to support the robust exercise by residents of Hong Kong of the rights to free speech, the press, and other fundamental freedoms, as provided by the Basic Law, the Joint Declaration, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

(7) to support freedom from arbitrary or unlawful arrest, detention, or imprisonment for all Hong Kong residents, as provided by the Basic Law, the Joint Declaration, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

(8) to draw international attention to any violations by the Government of the PRC of the fundamental rights of the people of Hong Kong, as provided by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and any encroachment upon the autonomy guaranteed to Hong Kong by the Basic Law and the Joint Declaration;

(9) to protect United States citizens and long-term permanent residents living in Hong Kong, as well as people visiting and transiting through Hong Kong;

(10) to maintain the economic and cultural ties that provide significant benefits to both the United States and Hong Kong, including the reinstatement of the Fulbright exchange program with regard to Hong Kong at the earliest opportunity;

(11) to coordinate with allies, including the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, to promote democracy and human rights in Hong Kong; and

(12) to welcome and protect in the United States residents of Hong Kong fleeing persecution or otherwise seeking a safe haven from violations by the Government of the PRC of the fundamental rights of the people of Hong Kong.

SEC. 5. TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS FOR HONG KONG RESIDENTS IN THE UNITED STATES.

(a) **DESIGNATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—For purposes of section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a), Hong Kong shall be treated as if it had been designated under subsection (b)(1)(C) of that section, subject to the provisions of this section.

(2) PERIOD OF DESIGNATION.—The initial period of the designation referred to in paragraph (1) shall be for the 18-month period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) ALIENS ELIGIBLE.—As a result of the designation made under subsection (a), an alien is deemed to satisfy the requirements under paragraph (1) of section 244(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a(c)), subject to paragraph (3) of such section, if the alien—

(1) was a permanent resident of Hong Kong at the time such individual arrived into the United States and is a national of the PRC (or in the case of an individual having no nationality, is a person who last habitually resided in Hong Kong);

(2) has been continuously physically present in the United States since the date of the enactment of this Act;

(3) is admissible as an immigrant, except as otherwise provided in paragraph (2)(A) of such section, and is not ineligible for temporary protected status under paragraph (2)(B) of such section; and

(4) registers for temporary protected status in a manner established by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(c) CONSENT TO TRAVEL ABROAD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall give prior consent to travel abroad, in accordance with section 244(f)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a(f)(3)), to an alien who is granted temporary protected status pursuant to the designation made under subsection (a) if the alien establishes to the satisfaction of the Secretary of Homeland Security that emergency and extenuating circumstances beyond the control of the alien require the alien to depart for a brief, temporary trip abroad.

(2) TREATMENT UPON RETURN.—An alien returning to the United States in accordance with an authorization described in paragraph (1) shall be treated as any other returning alien provided temporary protected status under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a).

(d) FEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to any other fee authorized by law, the Secretary of Homeland Security is authorized to charge and collect a fee of \$360 for each application for temporary protected status under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act by a person who is only eligible for such status by reason of subsection (a).

(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall permit aliens to apply for a waiver of any fees associated with filing an application referred to in paragraph (1).

SEC. 6. TREATMENT OF HONG KONG RESIDENTS FOR IMMIGRATION PURPOSES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during the 5 fiscal year period beginning on the first day of the first full fiscal year after the date of enactment of this Act, Hong Kong shall continue to be considered a foreign state separate and apart from the PRC as mandated under section 103 of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-649) for purposes of the numerical limitations on immigrant visas under sections 201, 202, and 203 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151, 1152, and 1153).

SEC. 7. VERIFICATION OF HONG KONG PRIORITY RESIDENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall publish in the Federal Register, an interim final rule establishing procedures for designation of Hong Kong Priority Residents. Notwithstanding section 553 of title 5, United States Code, the rule shall be effective, on an

interim basis, immediately upon publication, but may be subject to change and revision after public notice and opportunity for comment. The Secretary of State shall finalize such rule not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act. Such rule shall establish procedures—

(1) for individuals to register with any United States embassy or consulate outside of the United States, or with the Department of Homeland Security in the United States, and request designation as a Priority Hong Kong Resident; and

(2) for the appropriate Secretary to verify the residency of registered individuals and designate those who qualify as Priority Hong Kong Residents.

(b) DOCUMENTATION.—The procedures described in subsection (a) shall include the collection of—

(1) biometric data;

(2) copies of birth certificates, residency cards, and other documentation establishing residency; and

(3) other personal information, data, and records deemed appropriate by the Secretary.

(c) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall issue guidance outlining actions to enhance the ability of the Secretary to efficiently send and receive information to and from the United Kingdom and other like-minded allies and partners for purposes of rapid verification of permanent residency in Hong Kong and designation of individuals as Priority Hong Kong Residents.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the House Committees on Foreign Affairs and the Judiciary and the Senate Committees on Foreign Relations and the Judiciary detailing plans to implement the requirements described in this subsection.

(e) PROTECTION FOR REFUGEES.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent a Priority Hong Kong Resident from seeking refugee status under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157) or requesting asylum under section 208 of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1158).

SEC. 8. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—On an annual basis, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with other Federal agencies, as appropriate, shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees, detailing for the previous fiscal year—

(1) the number of Hong Kong SAR residents who have applied for U.S. visas or immigration benefits, disaggregated by visa type or immigration benefit, including asylum, refugee status, temporary protected status, and lawful permanent residence;

(2) the number of approvals, denials, or rejections of applicants for visas or immigration benefits described in paragraph (1), disaggregated by visa type or immigration benefit and basis for denial;

(3) the number of pending refugee and asylum applications for Hong Kong SAR residents, and the length of time and reason for which such applications have been pending; and

(4) other matters deemed relevant by the Secretaries relating to efforts to protect and facilitate the resettlement of refugees and victims of persecution in Hong Kong.

(b) FORM.—Each report under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form and published on a text-searchable, publicly available website of the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security.

SEC. 9. STRATEGY FOR INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION ON HONG KONG.

(a) IN GENERAL.—It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to support the people of Hong Kong by providing safe haven to Hong Kong SAR residents who are nationals of the PRC following the enactment of the Hong Kong National Security Law that places certain Hong Kong persons at risk of persecution; and

(2) to encourage like-minded nations to make similar accommodations for Hong Kong people fleeing persecution by the Government of the PRC.

(b) PLAN.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other Federal agencies, as appropriate, shall develop a plan to engage with other nations, including the United Kingdom, on cooperative efforts to—

(1) provide refugee and asylum protections for victims of, and individuals with a fear of, persecution in Hong Kong, either by Hong Kong authorities or other authorities acting on behalf of the PRC;

(2) enhance protocols to facilitate the resettlement of refugees and displaced persons from Hong Kong;

(3) identify and prevent the exploitation of immigration and visa policies and procedures by corrupt officials; and

(4) expedite the sharing of information, as appropriate, related to the refusal of individual applications for visas or other travel documents submitted by residents of the Hong Kong SAR based on—

(A) national security or related grounds under section 212(a)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(3)); or

(B) fraud or misrepresentation under section 212(a)(6)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(6)(C)).

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other Federal agencies, as appropriate, shall submit a report on the plan described in subsection (b) to the appropriate congressional committees.

SEC. 10. REFUGEE STATUS FOR CERTAIN RESIDENTS OF HONG KONG.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Aliens described in subsection (b) may establish, for purposes of admission as a refugee under sections 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157) or asylum under section 208 of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1158), that such alien has a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion by asserting such a fear and a credible basis for concern about the possibility of such persecution.

(b) ALIENS DESCRIBED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An alien is described in this subsection if such alien—

(A) is a Priority Hong Kong Resident and—

(i) had a significant role in a civil society organization supportive of the protests in 2019 and 2020 related to the Hong Kong National Security Law and the encroachment on the autonomy of Hong Kong by the PRC;

(ii) was arrested, charged, detained, or convicted of an offense arising from their participation in an action as described in section 206(b)(2) of the United States-Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992 (22 U.S.C. 5726(b)(2)) that was not violent in nature; or

(iii) has had their citizenship, nationality, or residency revoked for having submitted to any United States Government agency a nonfrivolous application for refugee status, asylum, or any other immigration benefit under the immigration laws (as defined in section 101(a) of that Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)));

(B) is a Priority Hong Kong Resident spouse or child of an alien described in subparagraph (A); or

(C) is the parent of an alien described in subparagraph (A), if such parent is a citizen of the PRC and no other foreign state.

(2) OTHER CATEGORIES.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the

Secretary of State, may designate other categories of aliens for purposes of establishing a well-founded fear of persecution under subsection (a) if such aliens share common characteristics that identify them as targets of persecution in the PRC on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

(3) **SIGNIFICANT ROLE.**—For purposes of clause (i) of subsection (b)(1)(A), a significant role shall include, with respect to the protests described in such clause—

- (A) an organizing role;
- (B) a first aid responder;
- (C) a journalist or member of the media covering or offering public commentary;
- (D) a provider of legal services to one or more individuals arrested for participating in such protests; or

(E) a participant who during the period beginning on June 9, 2019, and ending on June 30, 2020, was arrested, charged, detained, or convicted as a result of such participation.

(c) **AGE OUT PROTECTIONS.**—For purposes of this section, a determination of whether an alien is a child shall be made using the age of the alien on the date on which the alien files an application for refugee or asylum status with the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(d) **EXCLUSION FROM NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.**—Aliens provided refugee status under this section shall not be counted against the numerical limitation on refugees established in accordance with the procedures described in section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157).

(e) **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a report on the matters described in paragraph (2) to—

(A) the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) **MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.**—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) the total number of refugee and asylum applications that are pending at the end of the reporting period;

(B) the average wait-times for all applicants for refugee status or asylum pending—

(i) a prescreening interview with a resettlement support center;

(ii) an interview with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; and

(iii) the completion of security checks;

(C) the number of approvals, referrals including the source of the referral, denials of applications for refugee status or asylum, disaggregated by the reason for each such denial; and

(D) the number of refugee circuit rides to interview populations that would include Hong Kong SAR completed in the last 90 days, and the number planned for the subsequent 90-day period.

(3) **FORM.**—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(4) **PUBLIC REPORTS.**—The Secretary of State shall make each report submitted under this subsection available to the public on the internet website of the Department of State.

SEC. 11. STATEMENT OF POLICY ON ENCOURAGING ALLIES AND PARTNERS TO MAKE SIMILAR ACCOMMODATIONS.

It is the policy of the United States to encourage allies and partners of the United States to make accommodations similar to the accommodations made in this Act for residents of the Hong Kong Special Adminis-

trative Region who are fleeing oppression by the Government of the People's Republic of China.

SEC. 12. TERMINATION.

Except as provided in section 6 of this Act, this Act shall cease to have effect on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. 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. 8428.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congressman MALINOWSKI for his tireless work on the Foreign Affairs Committee and particularly his advocacy on behalf of those maligned and abused by the Chinese Government.

Mr. Speaker, China's attacks on Hong Kong's autonomy came to a head this year when they rammed through the National Security Law, effectively undermining the one country, two systems framework the Hong Kongers were promised.

Since then, Beijing has used the law to arrest a number of pro-democracy activists. Just last week, Joshua Wong, Agnes Chow, and Ivan Lam were sentenced to prison in an attempt by the People's Republic of China to silence dissent.

When the National Security Law was passed, the Trump administration abruptly eliminated a number of policies that gave Hong Kongers preferential treatment under U.S. law, including terminating immigration-related benefits to Hong Kong passport holders just when they needed it most.

While the United States has shut our doors to the people of Hong Kong, the United Kingdom was welcoming those fleeing Xi Jinping's tyranny, with Canada now following suit. H.R. 8428 would allow the United States to do the same, telling the people of Hong Kong that the U.S. is open to them, that we want Hong Kongers to come to America and contribute their talents to our society.

□ 1300

China is currently detaining 12 young Hong Kong activists who bravely tried to hold their government accountable for the commitments under international law. These are the kinds of people we should be helping. We really need to admire them. They are really on the front line, and we should not let China, the Beijing regime, get away with this.

This legislation corrects the unforced error of the administration which

closed our doors to people whom we should be defending.

Congress has constantly demonstrated strong bipartisan support for Hong Kong, and I urge my colleagues to do the same today. It is really terrible to allow Beijing to get away with this.

People of Hong Kong, as I said before, were promised that, when the United Kingdom gave up Hong Kong, the agreement with the Beijing Government was that Hong Kong would have lots of autonomy and lots of freedom. And as they are doing in many places around the world, the People's Republic of China, the Beijing Government, is just taking all their promises and throwing them away.

We cannot allow that to happen. The United States must play a very major role, a very vocal role, and that is what the Congress is doing here today. It has bipartisan support by Democrats and Republicans. It should be supported by all Americans. I think perhaps it is, and we will send a clear message, not only to China, but all around the world.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, December 1, 2020.

Hon. ELIOT ENGEL,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ENGEL: This is to advise you that the Committee on the Judiciary has now had an opportunity to review the provisions in H.R. 8428, "Hong Kong People's Freedom and Choice Act of 2020" that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. I appreciate your consulting with us on those provisions. The Judiciary Committee has no objection to your including them in the bill for consideration on the House floor, and to expedite that consideration is willing to forgo action on H.R. 8428, with the understanding that we do not thereby waive any future jurisdictional claim over those provisions or their subject matters.

In the event a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation is convened, the Judiciary Committee reserves the right to request an appropriate number of conferees to address any concerns with these or similar provisions that may arise in conference.

Please place this letter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our committees.

Sincerely,

JERROLD NADLER,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, November 11, 2020.

Hon. JERROLD NADLER,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NADLER: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 8428, Hong Kong People's Freedom and Choice Act of 2020. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the House Committee on the Judiciary under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo

action on H.R. 8428 to expedite floor consideration. I further acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your jurisdiction. I will also support the appointment of Committee on the Judiciary conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

Lastly, I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. Thank you again for your cooperation regarding the legislation. I look forward to continuing to work with you as the measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, over the last year, the world has watched as the Chinese Communist Party has systematically destroyed the political freedoms that were guaranteed to the people of Hong Kong under the British-Sino treaty.

Hong Kongers are no longer allowed to exercise their rights of freedom of speech, freedom of expression, or freedom to peacefully assemble. Many protestors in Hong Kong have been beaten in the streets; others have been arrested and thrown in jail without due process.

Last week, we learned Hong Kong pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong was sentenced to 13 months in jail for simply demanding the freedoms he was promised. Other activists like Agnes Chow and Ivan Lam were sentenced to 10 months in jail as well.

This is the Chinese Communist Party showing its true colors as enemies of freedom and brutal oppressors of its own people.

I have had the privilege to speak with Joshua Wong on several occasions, including last year when he testified before our committee. He is devoted to Hong Kong, to his people, and to democracy. The Chinese Communist Party has jailed him for more than a year in what is an appalling injustice.

It is no wonder that the Director of National Intelligence recently wrote that the People's Republic of China poses the greatest threat to America today, and the greatest threat to democracy and freedom worldwide since World War II. I couldn't agree more.

That is why I was proud to chair the China Task Force earlier this year. And after months of classified and unclassified briefings, the China Task Force released a report with 82 key findings and more than 400 recommendations, many of which are focused on what steps we should take to help the people of Hong Kong, including providing support to Hong Kong refugees fleeing the Chinese Communist Party persecution, which this bill does.

The Hong Kong People's Freedom and Choice Act serves as a reminder to the Chinese Communist Party that America stands with the people of Hong Kong, and it will stand for freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank, also, the sponsor of this bill, a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. MALINOWSKI, for bringing this bill forward here today. I urge my colleagues to join us in support of this important legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, as you can see, there is bipartisan support for this. As Americans, we have an absolute stake in what goes on in China and Hong Kong.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MALINOWSKI), the author of this important bill, a valued member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ENGEL for his leadership for human rights on this issue and on so many issues as the leader of our committee, and for the very strong words that he just delivered on this important legislation, the Hong Kong People's Freedom and Choice Act.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the bipartisan sponsors, Representatives KINZINGER, CASTRO, and CURTIS. I want to thank Ranking Member McCAUL and leadership on both sides of the aisle for making the issue of Hong Kong and our efforts to provide safe haven for its people a bipartisan issue.

As the gentleman mentioned, the China Task Force that he chaired, recommended an approach very similar to the one that we will be embracing here today. I think the reason why we are united on this issue is that, although we may sometimes use different language, we do have a common understanding of the challenge that the United States faces with respect to China.

We understand that we are in a contest, not with China the country, not with the Chinese people, but with the Chinese Government, the Chinese Communist Party. It is a contest of ideas and ideals. It is about the most fundamental questions: how the world should be organized, whether there are any rules that apply to the most powerful nations and the most powerful governments, or whether those nations and governments can impose their will on anyone as they choose; a contest between democracy and kleptocracy.

It is a contest that we win, in my view, by remembering what we stand for as a country, by staying true to that, by winning allies to that, by rallying hearts and minds around the world to that.

So with that in mind, I would like to make just two points that are relevant to this bill.

Number one, Hong Kong is very important to this contest. It is a city on the front lines, geographically and morally, just like Berlin was during the Cold War. It is a place where the Chinese Government made a promise to respect the autonomy of Hong Kong, to respect the freedom of speech, the freedom of assembly, the rule of law that people enjoyed there.

China, today, is plainly breaking those promises, and by breaking them, it is testing us, because those promises were made not just to the people of Hong Kong but to the United States and to the international community. It is testing to see whether we will do something; and, therefore, we must.

The second point I will make is that we know something as a country about how to win a contest like this because we waged one during the Cold War. We have learned lessons about what to do and what not to do, and one of those lessons is that the best way to win against a dictatorship is to pit the strength of our system against the weakness of theirs, to hold up the glaring contrast between our free, open, and self-confident democracy, against the weakness of the oppressive, closed, and fearful system that the Communist Party has imposed on the Chinese people, including, now, in Hong Kong.

One way we do that is by self-confidently opening our doors. That is what we did during the Cold War.

Hundreds of thousands of people from the former Soviet Union, including 400,000 religious refugees from the former Soviet Union itself and many, many more from Hungary, Poland—my family, for example—Czechoslovakia, and others, came to the United States over the decades. Yes, they were dissidents. Sometimes they were protestors; sometimes they were political; but mostly, they were the people with open and inquiring minds, the risk-takers, the entrepreneurs, the scientists, the artists, and the best and brightest.

And the Soviet bloc's loss was our gain. They made us stronger, and their success here was a constant reproach to the Communist regimes that they left behind, a constant reminder to the people still trapped behind the Iron Curtain, that there is a better way to live than in a dictatorship.

So that is what we are doing in this bill. We are saying that we are willing to provide temporary refuge to Hong Kongers who are already in the United States, to expedite processing of refugee applications for Hong Kongers fleeing persecution. We call for a strategy to work with our allies, because the United States, obviously, cannot do this by itself, but we can lead this effort.

We are saying, by passing this legislation, something very, very important to the Chinese Government. We are saying: If you crush Hong Kong, you will lose its best and brightest citizens, the people responsible for its vitality, but we will let them come to the United States and contribute to our vitality instead.

So it is a humanitarian gesture, but it is actually much more than a humanitarian gesture. It is one of the best ways we have to deter China from crushing Hong Kong. The Chinese Government understands perfectly well that this is a threat.

When the United Kingdom offered asylum and citizenship to Hong

Kongers earlier this year, they said it was a gross interference, and they condemned it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MALINOWSKI).

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Mr. Speaker, they condemned Canada for doing exactly the same thing a few months ago.

I don't believe they expect us to do it. They surely expect us to condemn them. They surely expect us to slap a few sanctions on their leadership, as the State Department did today, which I am fine with. But they do not expect us to use the strength of our society against the weakness of theirs by opening our doors to Hong Kongers fleeing persecution, giving them that option that is being denied to them in Hong Kong itself.

So let's stand by the brave people of Hong Kong. Let's make the Chinese Communist Party uncomfortable, as this sure will, and let's do it in the best traditions of America's openness to people seeking freedom from oppression around the world.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL).

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, Chairman ENGEL, and Ranking Member MCCAUL for their leadership on this matter and all the members on the Foreign Affairs Committee who worked so diligently to support the people of Hong Kong, their autonomy, and their freedoms.

In my travel to Hong Kong, I witnessed firsthand the innovative spirit and work ethic of the citizens of that special place. Hong Kongers, like people all around the globe, look to the United States as a symbol for freedom and democracy, that beacon of hope in a sea of global despair that we have been for some 2½ centuries.

Today, as the CCP tightens its grip on Hong Kong, we must provide unwavering support for the democratic desires of the people of Hong Kong and be steadfast in our solidarity with these democracy-loving, hardworking people.

That is why I am pleased to support and urge all my colleagues to support this important bill, H.R. 8428, the Hong Kong People's Freedom and Choice Act, to give those seeking refuge on our shores the protection they need.

As the people of Hong Kong cry out to the free world for support against tyranny, the United States stands at their side to join those calling on the CCP to honor their 1984 treaty commitments and those aiding those Hong Kongers seeking refuge.

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

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, at this point in time, I would like to take a moment of personal privilege to honor my dear friend, the gentleman from New York.

This may perhaps be our last time on the floor debating together. We have

become good friends over the last 2 years as chairman and ranking member. I would argue that is the way it is supposed to be.

Chairman ENGEL often says, and I agree, that when it comes to foreign policy, that partisanship stops at the water's edge. In fact, just last year, RealClearPolitics described the Foreign Affairs Committee as an island of calm in a sea of partisanship. An island of calm in a sea of partisanship—I take that as a great compliment, and I know you should, too.

No one embodies that more than our committee chairman, ELIOT ENGEL. I am honored to call him my friend.

Anyone who has ever worked with Chairman ENGEL, or just even had the opportunity to meet him, knows that he is truly a gentleman in every sense of the word. He always puts civility first, and he values public service and honor above everything else.

But not everyone knows that the man has got a great sense of humor. He is one of the funniest guys I know.

□ 1315

And that is why if you watch videos of us in the Foreign Affairs Committee on the dais, you will often see him lean over and whisper something to me, and I couldn't help but respond with laughter. And I have shared that sense of humor with him over the last 2 years.

Perhaps one of the fondest memories I have, Mr. Speaker, is traveling to Normandy on the 75th anniversary of D-day to see our D-day veterans, ones like my father, who fought in World War II as part of the D-day air campaign, to see those brave patriots who crushed and destroyed the evils of Nazi Germany.

Now, for those of you who may not know, there is a younger picture of ELIOT that really looks just like one of the Beatles, and that would be John Lennon. And I was thinking about blowing it up and putting it on the floor, but I wanted to save you that. But it is not a bad looking picture.

So when we were on this codel, we decided, you know what, we are going to break away from the pack and have our own private dinner at Le Meurice in Paris. And I bought this really cool pair of sunglasses. They had to be readers, but they were sunglasses, and maybe for a guy from Texas they were a little too funky, but then when I looked at ELIOT and that John Lennon look, I handed the glasses to ELIOT, he put them on, and he looked absolutely fantastic in those glasses. So I said, ELIOT, you can have those glasses. And it always charms me when he puts those glasses on sometimes at a committee hearing.

But no matter where he goes, ELIOT is always the one to lighten the mood and make people feel more at ease. And that is really his way. He wants people to know that they are heard and that he is in their corner.

I will never forget the trip we took to the Colombia-Venezuela border at the

height of the humanitarian crisis. We saw firsthand the six million people who fled the corrupt Maduro regime and the fallout that it caused. It was truly the worst humanitarian and refugee crisis facing the Western Hemisphere.

ELIOT and I knew that something needed to be done, and as a result we introduced the United States-Northern Triangle Enhanced Engagement Act, which aimed to curb illegal migration, spur economic development, and combat corruption in the area.

And not long after that, we introduced the bipartisan Global Fragility Act to improve the way the United States deals with fragile nations. And I am proud to say this bipartisan bill was signed into law last year.

Both of these legislative achievements are aimed at helping people who need it the most because that is who Chairman ENGEL truly is.

He sees this very large world that we live in and immediately wants to come to the aid of those who are suffering, those who are sick, and those who are needing a helping hand.

Under Chairman ENGEL's leadership on issues like these he has played a pivotal role in shaping United States foreign policy. The world is and will continue to be a more stable and secure place because of him.

In light of these accomplishments and so much more, I found it only fitting to name this year's State Department Authorization Act after the chairman, and I am proud to say the Eliot Engel State Department Act passed the House last year.

You know, most people could not imagine a Democrat from the Bronx and a Republican from the heart of Texas could not only work so well together, but that we would become best of friends, especially not in a town that is so often divided by politics.

But Mr. ENGEL and I decided early on from the start that we could achieve more if we focused on the things we agreed on than the things we didn't agree on. And the fact is, we agree on 95 percent of foreign policy issues and it is through our friendship that we have been able to accomplish so much.

I would say that serving with Chairman ENGEL has truly been a highlight of my political and professional career on the Hill. I know that wherever he goes next and wherever his lovely wife, Pat, and he go next that he will continue to serve our country honorably.

For his decades of service to this country, for his unwavering support for Israel and his long opposition to the Ayatollah in Iran and his long list of policy achievements, I believe that I speak for all of us here in the Chamber and all of us in the House when I say, "Thank you, sir. Thank you for your service." It has been an honor.

Your legacy of pursuing bipartisan policy solutions that strengthen our country will live on for years to come, and I hope it will be a role model for future committees and chairmen

and ranking members as to how to work together to get good things done for the American people because that is what most Americans care about. They don't care about our political stripes; they want to know: What are you doing for the American people? And we have shown and led by example.

It is going to be hard for me to watch you, Mr. Chairman, leave this Chamber. You are my favorite chairman. But there is so much to celebrate with your time in Congress and the legacy that you will leave behind. So from the bottom of my heart to my dear friend, Chairman ENGEL, and to your wonderful wife Pat, who I have gotten to know over the years, who is a beautiful, precious woman, let me just say that both of you will truly be missed. We will miss you, but we know you are not going to be far away. And we know that you will be there in the future. And I look forward to working with you in your future position, which we discussed over dinner last Saturday night with Ed Royce, as well, your other dear friend, who has my utmost respect.

I would say this: Sometimes you have respect for a chairman because you fear them. We have respect for you because we admire you because you are an honest, decent man, and you are a true leader. You lead by example, and people want to follow a good man like that. You are a good man, Mr. Chairman, and it has been a great experience the time we have had together.

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

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

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

In closing, we can no longer deny the Chinese Communist Party is an enemy of democracy and a threat to international security and to freedom.

Nowhere is that more clear than in Hong Kong.

We cannot turn a blind eye to the CCP's brutal crackdown on freedom and democracy there.

That is why I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Hong Kong People's Freedom and Choice Act.

With this legislation, we have the opportunity to assist the freedom-loving people of Hong Kong and to remind the world the United States of America stands with anyone who stands for freedom.

I thank my friends and colleagues, Congressmen MALINOWSKI and KINZINGER and, most importantly, the chairman, Chairman ENGEL, for their hard work on this issue.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

I want to first comment on some of the things that my good friend Mr. MCCAUL said. I am touched by his statement. I am touched by the work we have done together. It has been a

pleasure. And I think that the way we work on the Foreign Affairs Committee is the way I think all committees should work and Congress should work. I think people are tired of fighting and people want to see us work together.

It has been a pleasure for me to be chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, and it has been a pleasure for me to work with such good people like Mr. MCCAUL of Texas.

Saturday night we, as you alluded to, we got together for dinner, actually in your house, with Mr. Royce, as well, and we had a very good time. Most of the time we talked about work, but many of the other times we just talked about our relationships and the general direction that we would like to see the United States take in the international field.

It is very difficult to leave a place that you love. I have been fortunate to have spent 32 years in this robust body. These have been the 32 best years of my life, and something that I will always remember. I will remember it because we have done good work for people. We have done good work for Americans. We have done good work for people around the world. But I will remember it even more because of the good friends that I met, friends like Mr. MCCAUL who work hard, who reach out to the other side of the aisle.

And you know what, when you get together with people on the other side of the aisle, you realize that you have so much in common with them that perhaps you didn't even realize because the truth of the matter is, here in Congress, if somebody is not on your committee and they are from the other party, you hardly ever get to see them. You hardly ever get to know them. You hardly ever get to be able to work with them. I have tried to change that. So has Mr. MCCAUL. And we have succeeded. We really have succeeded.

I hope that the rest of the Congress in the years to come will see what we have done and will try to emulate us and try to do things that really push the government and the people of this great country to work together on issues because we all want the same thing for this wonderful country. We are all pleased to serve this wonderful country. And we want to make sure that others will get all of the benefits that we have, as well, being able to just be free, support freedom, and work together.

In closing, I want to, again, say to Mr. MCCAUL that it is a pleasure working with you. It has been a pleasure. But we are going to continue to do other things together. And I hope that all our colleagues on both sides of the aisle will see what we have done on the Foreign Affairs Committee and try to do the same thing. People want us to work together. We may disagree on issues. That is what this body is for. But I don't disagree with anybody's right to say what they want, and I don't disagree with people wanting to let everyone know how strongly they feel about the issues.

To Mr. MCCAUL, my good friend, I hope you will invite me back for dinner. It has been a pleasure being your friend. It has been a pleasure working with you.

Again, the Foreign Affairs Committee has just been a wonderful place. It was the first committee which I joined when I came to this body 32 years ago.

So I tell my friends that I am not going away. I will be around. And, hopefully, we can continue all the good things that we have done like this bill, the national security law. It is a devastating blow to the cause of human rights, democracy, and prosperity in Hong Kong. It is the national security law that Beijing has forced Hong Kong to swallow. It is a blow to the cause of human rights. We will not countenance it. H.R. 8428 opens America's doors to Hong Kongers searching for freedom from Beijing's aggression.

I once again thank Mr. MALINOWSKI for authoring this legislation, which not only protects U.S. interests but supports the people of Hong Kong whose independence has slowly been stripped away from them.

Again, let me thank all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. It has been a pleasure working with you. Let me especially thank my friend, Mr. MCCAUL. In working together, we are going to make sure that the American people get the kind of government they deserve, get the kind of things that they deserve.

This is a wonderful country, and we are fortunate to be representing our home districts in this country. So let me say, God bless America. God bless all the people in our country who work every day, who want help.

We are undergoing difficulty right now with the virus in this country, but as Americans we will persevere, and we will continue to have our role as the leaders of the free world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, 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 (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8428, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1330

HBCU PROPELLING AGENCY RELATIONSHIPS TOWARDS A NEW ERA OF RESULTS FOR STUDENTS ACT

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 461) to strengthen the capacity and competitiveness of historically Black colleges and universities through robust public-sector, private-sector, and

community partnerships and engagement, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 461

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 “HBCU Propelling Agency Relationships Towards a New Era of Results for Students Act” or the “HBCU PARTNERS Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) As many colleges and universities across the country kept their doors closed to African American applicants, historically Black colleges and universities (referred to in this section as “HBCUs”) played a central role in ensuring that African Americans could attain an excellent education.

(2) Today, HBCUs continue to play a critical role in ensuring that African Americans, and those of all races, can access high-quality educational opportunities.

(3) HBCUs enroll nearly 300,000 students, an estimated 70 percent of whom come from low-income backgrounds and 80 percent of whom are African American.

(4) According to the National Association For Equal Opportunity In Higher Education (referred to in this section as “NAFEO”), HBCUs make up just 3 percent of American institutions of higher education but serve more than a fifth of African American college students.

(5) According to the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (referred to in this section as “TMCF”), approximately 9 percent of all African American college students attend HBCUs.

(6) A March 2017 report from the Education Trust concluded that HBCUs have higher completion rates for African American students than other institutions serving similar student populations.

(7) According to TMCF, 40 percent of African American Members of Congress, 50 percent of African American lawyers, and 80 percent of African American judges are graduates of HBCUs.

(8) According to NAFEO, HBCUs graduate approximately 50 percent of African American public school teaching professionals.

(9) According to the United Negro College Fund (referred to in this section as “UNCF”), African American graduates of HBCUs are almost twice as likely as African Americans who graduated from other institutions to report that their university prepared them well for life.

(10) According to a study commissioned by UNCF, in 2014, HBCUs generated a total direct economic impact of \$14,800,000,000 and created more than 134,000 jobs.

(11) According to a 2019 report produced by the American Council on Education and UNCF, despite efforts to counter a historical legacy of inequitable funding and notable investments by the Federal Government and many State governments, resource inequities continue to plague HBCUs.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to strengthen the capacity and competitiveness of HBCUs to fulfill their principal mission of equalizing educational opportunity, as described in section 301(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1051(b));

(2) to align HBCUs with the educational and economic competitiveness priorities of the United States;

(3) to provide students enrolled at HBCUs with the highest quality educational and economic opportunities;

(4) to bolster and facilitate productive interactions between HBCUs and Federal agencies; and

(5) to encourage HBCU participation in and benefit from Federal programs, grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPLICABLE AGENCY.—The term “applicable agency” means—

(A) the Department of Agriculture;

(B) the Department of Commerce;

(C) the Department of Defense;

(D) the Department of Education;

(E) the Department of Energy;

(F) the Department of Health and Human Services;

(G) the Department of Homeland Security;

(H) the Department of Housing and Urban Development;

(I) the Department of the Interior;

(J) the Department of Justice;

(K) the Department of Labor;

(L) the Department of State;

(M) the Department of Transportation;

(N) the Department of Treasury;

(O) the Department of Veterans Affairs;

(P) the National Aeronautics and Space Administration;

(Q) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

(R) the National Science Foundation;

(S) the Small Business Administration; and

(T) any other Federal agency designated as an applicable agency under section 4.

(2) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The term “Executive Director” means—

(A) the Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, as designated by the President; or

(B) if no such Executive Director is designated, such person as the President may designate to lead the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

(3) HBCU.—The term “HBCU” means a historically Black college or university.

(4) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—The term “historically Black college or university” has the meaning given the term “part B institution” under section 322 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061).

(5) PRESIDENT’S BOARD OF ADVISORS.—The term “President’s Board of Advisors” means the President’s Board of Advisors on historically Black colleges and universities.

(6) SECRETARY.—Except as otherwise provided, the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Education.

(7) WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE.—The term “White House Initiative” means the White House Initiative on historically Black colleges and universities.

SEC. 4. STRENGTHENING HBCUS THROUGH FEDERAL AGENCY PLANS.

(a) DESIGNATING APPLICABLE AGENCIES.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Executive Director, shall—

(1) identify each Federal agency with which an HBCU—

(A) has entered into a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement; or

(B) is eligible to participate in the programs and initiatives under the jurisdiction of such Federal agency; and

(2) designate each Federal agency so identified as an applicable agency.

(b) SUBMITTING AGENCY PLANS.—Not later than February 1 of each year, the head of each applicable agency shall submit to the Secretary, the Executive Director, the Com-

mittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives, and the President’s Board of Advisors an annual Agency Plan describing efforts to strengthen the capacity of HBCUs to participate or be eligible to participate in the programs and initiatives under the jurisdiction of such applicable agency as described in subsection (a)(1)(B).

(c) FURTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMISSION AND ACCESSIBILITY.—The Executive Director shall make all annual Agency Plan submissions publicly available online in a user-friendly format.

(d) AGENCY PLAN CONTENT.—Where appropriate, each Agency Plan shall include—

(1) a description of how the applicable agency intends to increase the capacity of HBCUs to compete effectively for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements;

(2) an identification of Federal programs and initiatives under the jurisdiction of the applicable agency in which HBCUs are under-represented;

(3) an outline of proposed efforts to improve HBCUs’ participation in such programs and initiatives;

(4) a description of any progress made towards advancing or achieving goals and efforts from previous Agency Plans submitted under this section by such applicable agency;

(5) a description of how the applicable agency plans to encourage public-sector, private-sector, and community involvement to improve the capacity of HBCUs to compete effectively for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements, and to participate in programs and initiatives under the jurisdiction of such agency;

(6) an identification of programs and initiatives not listed in a previous Agency Plan in which an HBCU may participate;

(7) any other information the applicable agency determines is relevant to promoting opportunities to fund, partner, contract, or otherwise interact with HBCUs; and

(8) any additional criteria established by the Secretary or the White House Initiative.

(e) AGENCY ENGAGEMENT.—To help fulfill the objectives of the Agency Plans, the head of each applicable agency—

(1) shall provide, as appropriate, technical assistance and information to the Executive Director to enhance communication with HBCUs concerning the applicable agency’s—

(A) programs and initiatives described in subsection (d)(2); and

(B) the preparation of applications or proposals for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements; and

(2) shall appoint a senior official to report directly to the agency head on the applicable agency’s progress under this section.

SEC. 5. PRESIDENT’S BOARD OF ADVISORS ON HBCUS.

(a) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established the President’s Board of Advisors on historically Black colleges and universities in the Department of Education or, if the President so elects, within the Executive Office of the President.

(2) FUNDING FROM ED.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), the Secretary shall provide funding and administrative support for the President’s Board of Advisors, subject to the availability of appropriations.

(3) FUNDING FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT.—If the President elects to locate the President’s Board of Advisors within the Executive Office of the President, the Executive Office of the President shall provide funding and administrative support for the President’s Board of Advisors, subject to the availability of appropriations.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint not more than 23 members to the President's Board of Advisors, and the Secretary and Executive Director or their designees shall serve as ex officio members.

(2) CHAIR.—

(A) DESIGNATION.—The President shall designate one member of the President's Board of Advisors to serve as its Chair, who shall help direct the Board's work in coordination with the Secretary and in consultation with the Executive Director.

(B) CONSULTATION.—The Chair shall also consult with the Executive Director regarding the time and location of meetings of the President's Board of Advisors, which shall take place not less frequently than once every 6 months.

(C) PERFORMANCE.—Insofar as the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) may apply to the President's Board of Advisors, any functions of the President under such Act, except for those of reporting to the Congress, shall be performed by the Chair, in accordance with guidelines issued by the Administrator of General Services.

(3) COMPENSATION.—Members of the President's Board of Advisors shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law.

(c) MISSION AND FUNCTIONS.—The President's Board of Advisors shall advise the President, through the White House Initiative, on all matters pertaining to strengthening the educational capacity of HBCUs, which shall include the following:

(1) Improving the identity, visibility, distinctive capabilities, and overall competitiveness of HBCUs.

(2) Engaging the philanthropic, business, government, military, homeland-security, and education communities in a national dialogue regarding new HBCU programs and initiatives.

(3) Improving the ability of HBCUs to remain fiscally secure institutions that can assist the Nation in achieving its educational goals and in advancing the interests of all Americans.

(4) Elevating the public awareness of, and fostering appreciation of, HBCUs.

(5) Encouraging public-private investments in HBCUs.

(6) Improving government-wide strategic planning related to HBCU competitiveness to align Federal resources and provide the context for decisions about HBCU partnerships, investments, performance goals, priorities, human capital development, and budget planning.

(d) REPORT.—The President's Board of Advisors shall report annually to the President on the Board's progress in carrying out its duties under this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on S. 461, the HBCU PARTNERS Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of S. 461, the HBCU PARTNERS Act, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, today is a special day for bipartisanship and for equity, access, and inclusion.

For centuries, this country has made promises to the African-American community that have gone largely unmet: promises of freedom, promises of justice, and promises of equal opportunity.

So, today, we vote for a fighting chance to rectify this history and the impacts it has had on the Black community. Today, we vote to give HBCUs and the communities they serve a real permanent seat at the table with the President of the United States and our Nation's Federal agencies.

You see, like the people of color they serve, HBCUs are embedded in the fabric of this Nation and they play a vital role in its prosperity. While countless other institutions have often fallen short, HBCUs have long been the means of delivering on our Nation's promise of freedom and opportunity for all, especially for communities of color.

For generations, these schools have fought to deliver for African Americans what is owed to them, a first-class education and a fair shot at pursuing happiness.

While only representing roughly 3 percent of all 4-year colleges and universities, HBCUs produce upwards of 17 percent of all bachelor's degrees awarded to African Americans. HBCU graduates account for 42 percent of all Black engineers and 47 percent of all Black female engineers.

What is more, these institutions produce 27 percent of all African-American STEM graduates, 50 percent of all African-American lawyers, 50 percent of all African-American public schoolteachers, and 80 percent of all African-American judges.

Further, research has found that HBCUs are more successful at boosting students out of the lowest income distributions than other institutions of higher education.

In fact, nearly 70 percent of students of HBCUs attain at least middle class incomes after graduation, including nearly 70 percent of low-income students.

On an annual basis, HBCUs contribute nearly \$15 billion to the economy, produce 134,000 jobs, and create \$46.8 billion in alumni career earnings that can be directly attributed to their degrees.

HBCUs are clearly centers of advancement and excellence in this country. It is important to note that this incredible success has been achieved despite over a century of systemic underfunding at both the State and Federal levels.

That is why my bill, the HBCU PARTNERS Act, is so very crucial. This legislation will require every administration and the Federal agencies it manages to plan and coordinate, on an annual basis, their efforts to strategically engage in investing in HBCUs.

This bill also strengthens the rigor and transparency requirements of existing law, requiring that agencies track their progress toward goals concerning HBCUs and share their plans to advance them with Congress.

In addition, it codifies the President's Board of Advisors on HBCUs, ensuring an ongoing avenue for HBCU priorities and policy concerns to be raised and addressed.

In other words, this legislation provides us with an opportunity to commit to HBCUs in the same way they have committed to the well-being and prosperity of our country. And in a very real way, it provides us with a chance to honor our Nation's promises.

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

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

I rise today in support of S. 461, the Historically Black Colleges and Universities—HBCU—PARTNERS Act, which stands for Propelling Agency Relationships Towards a New Era of Results for Students.

This legislation is a result of bipartisan, bicameral collaboration and executive leadership across administrations. Executive orders on HBCUs began under Jimmy Carter and have evolved with each succeeding President.

In 1989, George H.W. Bush established the first President's Board of Advisors on HBCUs and the White House Initiative on HBCUs.

In February 2017, President Trump built upon these historic efforts and issued an executive order to promote excellence and innovation at HBCUs. S. 461 would codify President Trump's executive order to pave a brighter and stronger path forward for HBCUs.

Notably, this bill established the President's Board of Advisors, a 23-member board responsible for advising the President and reporting on strengthening the educational capacity and economic offerings of HBCUs.

The board will also work closely with the White House Initiative on HBCUs to make recommendations to improve overall competitiveness of HBCUs, their ability to remain financially secure, how to elevate public awareness and appreciation of HBCUs, and more.

Federal agencies will collaborate with the White House Initiative on HBCUs, and each agency will work to increase the capacity of HBCUs to compete effectively for Federal grants and contracts and to participate in Federal programs.

As a member of the Education & Labor Committee, I have spent time learning about the ways in which HBCUs serve our country's students and higher education community. I know I speak for many on the committee and in this Chamber when I say that HBCUs play a critical role in preparing our country's next generation of leaders and innovators.

This legislation before us today will empower HBCUs' education and economic offerings so they can continue

serving students, families, and communities across the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in voting “yes” on this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER) for his kind remarks and support.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the chairman of the Committee on Education & Labor and a tremendous supporter of education.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I rise in support of S. 461, as amended, the HBCU PARTNERS Act.

Since their inception, HBCUs have been engines of social mobility and a cornerstone of secondary education for underserved students, particularly Black students from low-income backgrounds.

Today, HBCUs account for no more than 3 percent of all colleges and universities in the country, yet these institutions, as we have heard, produce nearly 20 percent of all Black undergraduates, half of all Black professionals, and one-third of all Black STEM degree earners.

Despite this outsized role in expanding access to higher education, HBCUs continue to be underresourced compared to other institutions of higher learning.

This historic lack of support is being further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, as HBCUs disproportionately suffer from dramatically lower enrollment and State funding.

Mr. Speaker, there is simply no better time to support these critical institutions than by passing this legislation before us today.

The HBCUs PARTNERS Act would ensure that our Federal agencies actively work with HBCUs to advance their critical mission of opening the door to higher education for students across the country.

This bipartisan bill demonstrates that regardless of political affiliation, we can all agree that during this dark hour in our higher education system, our Nation's HBCUs are an investment worth making.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS), the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER), and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER), and the entire bipartisan HBCU Caucus for their work on this bill.

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL).

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER), my friend, for yielding.

I rise today in strong support of S. 461, the HBCU PARTNERS Act, intro-

duced by my friend from South Carolina in the Senate, Senator TIM SCOTT; and my good friend here in the House, Congresswoman ALMA ADAMS of North Carolina; and a strong bipartisan group, including my good friend from Virginia, our chairman of the Education & Labor Committee.

Mr. Speaker, HBCUs play a critical role in the education of our young people in this country. Throughout their history, they have helped students achieve the dream of a college education and their unique start to that pursuit of happiness.

In our central Arkansas region, we are blessed with four outstanding HBCUs, including Arkansas Baptist College, Philander Smith College, Shorter College, and the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.

As the vice chairman of the Bipartisan Congressional HBCU Caucus, I am encouraged by the legislation that we consider today because it draws on partnerships—public, private, community—to strengthen our HBCUs. This has been a key for success of our HBCUs in Arkansas.

Inspired by the strong Federal consensus both in the executive branch and the legislative branch, last year I sponsored and hosted the first regional HBCU Summit in Little Rock to foster public- and private-sector partnerships to enhance our HBCUs for philanthropy, student recruitment and advancement, and workforce partnerships and apprenticeships.

I am committed to supporting our HBCUs to help them continue to graduate Americans who are prepared for a competitive global environment.

Every student in America deserves the opportunity to succeed. For thousands of students in Arkansas and across the country, HBCUs offer those young people the key tools to help them succeed in that opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friends on the HBCU Caucus, Chair ADAMS; our friend from Pennsylvania; and, of course, the chairman.

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Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

The HBCU PARTNERS Act is a culmination of leadership from both Republican and Democrat administrations. This bill has been crafted with bipartisan, bicameral input and, more importantly, with input from HBCU groups themselves.

HBCUs are a critical part of America's postsecondary education system. Today's legislation will renew our commitment to these institutions and empower HBCUs to continue providing countless men and women opportunities to pursue their dreams.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from North Carolina has 13½ minutes remaining.

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

I would like to thank both of the gentlemen for their support of this bill.

Clearly, I have to put on the record, as I continue to do, that I am a proud two-time graduate of an HBCU, North Carolina A&T State University, and I spent 40 years teaching at an HBCU in Greensboro, North Carolina, Bennett College. It was an HBCU that made a committed investment in me as I prepared to come to college and molded and shaped me into what they knew I could become.

Mr. Speaker, despite limited means, HBCUs have always generously served their communities because they understand the critical role that they play in advancing equity and access. They build on the philosophy of W.E.B. DuBois, who talked about education and said: “Of all the civil rights for which the world has struggled and fought for 5,000 years, the right to learn is undoubtedly the most fundamental.”

The HBCU PARTNERS Act recognizes these fundamental rights and these contributions in the most important way possible, by affording these institutions the ongoing support and investment needed to deepen their transformational work.

Advancing the mission of HBCUs and the prosperity of the communities they serve must be on the minds of our country's leaders. More importantly, it must be part of their agendas.

If America wants to deliver on its promises of equal opportunity for all, investing in HBCUs is certainly one of the most important ways to do so.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 461, 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.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 965, the yeas and nays are ordered.

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

STOP STUDENT DEBT RELIEF SCAMS ACT OF 2019

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1153) to explicitly make unauthorized access to Department of Education information technology systems and the misuse of identification devices issued by the Department of Education a criminal act.

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

S. 1153

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 “Stop Student Debt Relief Scams Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. CRIMINAL PENALTIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 490 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1097) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) ACCESS TO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS FOR FRAUD, COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGE, OR PRIVATE FINANCIAL GAIN.—Any person who knowingly uses an access device, as defined in section 1029(e)(1) of title 18, United States Code, issued to another person or obtained by fraud or false statement to access Department information technology systems for purposes of obtaining commercial advantage or private financial gain, or in furtherance of any criminal or tortious act in violation of the Constitution or laws of the United States or of any State, shall be fined not more than \$20,000, imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both.”.

(b) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary shall issue guidance regarding the use of access devices in a manner that complies with this Act, and the amendments made by this Act.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE OF PENALTIES.—Notwithstanding section 6, the penalties described in section 490(e) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1097), as added by subsection (a), shall take effect the day after the date on which the Secretary issues guidance regarding the use of access devices, as described in subsection (b).

SEC. 3. LOAN COUNSELING.

Section 485(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1092(b)) is amended—

(1) in clause (viii), by striking “and” after the semicolon; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(x) an explanation that—

“(I) the borrower may be contacted during the repayment period by third-party student debt relief companies;

“(II) the borrower should use caution when dealing with those companies; and

“(III) the services that those companies typically provide are already offered to borrowers free of charge through the Department or the borrower’s servicer; and”.

SEC. 4. PREVENTION OF IMPROPER ACCESS.

Section 485B of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1092b) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (e) through (h) as subsections (f) through (i), respectively;

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (5)(C), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (6)(C), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(7) preventing access to the data system and any other system used to administer a program under this title by any person or entity for the purpose of assisting a student in managing loan repayment or applying for any repayment plan, consolidation loan, or other benefit authorized by this title, unless such access meets the requirements described in subsection (e).”.

(3) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

“(e) REQUIREMENTS FOR THIRD-PARTY DATA SYSTEM ACCESS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—As provided in paragraph (7) of subsection (d), an authorized person or entity described in paragraph (2) may access

the data system and any other system used to administer a program under this title if that access—

“(A) is in compliance with terms of service, information security standards, and a code of conduct which shall be established by the Secretary and published in the Federal Register;

“(B) is obtained using an access device (as defined in section 1029(e)(1) of title 18, United States Code) issued by the Secretary to the authorized person or entity; and

“(C) is obtained without using any access device (as defined in section 1029(e)(1) of title 18, United States Code) issued by the Secretary to a student, borrower, or parent.

“(2) AUTHORIZED PERSON OR ENTITY.—An authorized person or entity described in this paragraph means—

“(A) a guaranty agency, eligible lender, or eligible institution, or a third-party organization acting on behalf of a guaranty agency, eligible lender, or eligible institution, that is in compliance with applicable Federal law (including regulations and guidance); or

“(B) a licensed attorney representing a student, borrower, or parent, or another individual who works for a Federal, State, local, or Tribal government or agency, or for a nonprofit organization, providing financial or student loan repayment counseling to a student, borrower, or parent, if—

“(i) that attorney or other individual has never engaged in unfair, deceptive, or abusive practices, as determined by the Secretary;

“(ii) that attorney or other individual does not work for an entity that has engaged in unfair, deceptive, or abusive practices (including an entity that is owned or operated by a person or entity that engaged in such practices), as determined by the Secretary;

“(iii) system access is provided only through a separate point of entry; and

“(iv) the attorney or other individual has consent from the relevant student, borrower, or parent to access the system.”; and

(4) in subsection (f)(1), as redesignated by paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “student and parent” and inserting “student, borrower, and parent”;;

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) and (D) as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respectively;

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

“(C) the reduction in improper data system access as described in subsection (d)(7);”;

(D) by striking subparagraph (E), as redesignated by subparagraph (B), and inserting the following:

“(E) any protocols, codes of conduct, terms of service, or information security standards developed under paragraphs (6) or (7) of subsection (d) during the preceding fiscal year.”.

SEC. 5. AGENCY PREVENTION AND DETECTION.

Section 141(b)(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1018(b)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C) Taking action to prevent and address the improper use of access devices, as described in section 485B(d)(7), including by—

“(i) detecting common patterns of improper use of any system that processes payments on Federal Direct Loans or other Department information technology systems;

“(ii) maintaining a reporting system for contractors involved in the processing of payments on Federal Direct Loans in order to allow those contractors to alert the Secretary of potentially improper use of Department information technology systems;

“(iii) proactively contacting Federal student loan borrowers whose Federal student loan accounts demonstrate a likelihood of

improper use in order to warn those borrowers of suspicious activity or potential fraud regarding their Federal student loan accounts; and

“(iv) providing clear and simple disclosures in communications with borrowers who are applying for or requesting assistance with Federal Direct Loan programs (including assistance or applications regarding income-driven repayment, forbearance, deferment, consolidation, rehabilitation, cancellation, and forgiveness) to ensure that borrowers are aware that the Department will never require borrowers to pay for such assistance or applications.”.

SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER) each will control 20 minutes. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on S. 1153, the Stop Student Debt Relief Scams Act of 2019.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 1153, the Stop Student Debt Relief Scams Act, today.

I would like to thank my colleague, Congressman SMUCKER, for cointroducing this bill with me and for his efforts to end these debt relief scams. We all know that our country faces a mounting student debt crisis, with Americans now holding more than \$1.5 trillion in student loan debt.

Predatory scammers are increasingly taking advantage of student loan borrowers, who face a complicated loan repayment process. These unscrupulous scammers defraud student borrowers by providing deceptive information to mislead them into paying thousands of dollars for services that the Federal Government already provides for free.

These scams come by way of robocalls. They are harassing and menacing, and the victims of these schemes are not only defrauded but, unknowingly, become delinquent on their payments and default on their loans, falling even deeper into debt.

We hear this time and time again because these phone calls come to your personal cell phone even if you don't have a student loan.

In 2007, I took out \$9,000 of student loans to finish my last semester of graduate school. I was able to repay that loan within 6 years. Years later, I still receive these very types of menacing phone calls, to my personal cell phone, of scams asking me to go through these programs.

These are individuals who receive information through the Department of Education. This is what we are trying to stop. They are accessing your personal information to scam you.

This is what we are here today to stop. This problem, unfortunately, during COVID-19 has only exacerbated. During this pandemic, the relief that was provided to help Federal student loan borrowers under the CARES Act has created additional opportunities for scammers to target desperate Americans.

This bill will ensure that the Department of Education and law enforcement agencies have the tools they need to crack down on these predatory fraudsters. It will also empower student borrowers by providing counseling and resources to make sure that all borrowers are aware of these potential scams and receive accurate information about the repayment options.

Knowledge is power here. It is time to stop these scammers from jeopardizing the financial future of student borrowers, and I urge my colleagues to support the passage of this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1153, the Stop Student Debt Relief Scams Act. I was proud to have introduced the companion bill to this, H.R. 2888, with Representative STEVENS.

We reintroduced this bill, and I want to thank the gentlewoman for her leadership on this bill and for her work on this important issue. This is bipartisan, bicameral legislation that will crack down on third-party debt collection scammers who exploit vulnerable students.

Over 40 million Americans today, Mr. Speaker, owe a collective \$1.5 trillion in Federal student loan debt. Students are working hard to pay off their loans, but many are struggling to make ends meet. To that end, Congress offers borrowers an array of options to relieve the financial pressure of their debt.

The Department of Education hires Federal student loan servicers to assist borrowers in repaying their loans by helping the borrower select the best option for their specific situation.

These services are all provided at no cost to borrowers. Unfortunately, there are hundreds of malicious third-party debt collection companies that are seizing on students' vulnerability and engaging in predatory schemes by selling students on the notion that their company will reduce or make the student loan debt disappear.

These are scammers who trick borrowers into paying an exorbitant fee for a service that is already available for free through the Federal student loan servicer. Even worse, the victims of the scheme usually become delinquent and enter default because their payments are no longer going to reduce their loan balance but are, instead, lining the pockets of these debt relief scammers.

This bill and the House companion bill would help Federal and State officials take action against these scammers. Specifically, the bill clarifies that it is a Federal crime to access the Department of Education information technology systems for fraud, commercial advantage, or for private financial gain.

The bill also penalizes scammers with a fine of up to \$20,000, imprisonment of up to a 5-year sentence, or some combination of both. These measures ensure that there are strong deterrents set in place to prevent widespread abuse from debt scammers.

Our bill also improves student loan exit counseling by warning Federal loan borrowers about debt relief scams and informing them that these third-party companies charge money for services that are already provided to borrowers for free by the Department of Education.

Creating awareness will significantly aid students' ability to spot a scam. Importantly, this legislation requires the Department of Education to maintain commonsense reporting, detection, and prevention activities to stop potential or known debt relief scams.

Student loan borrowers face many obstacles in our generous yet complicated student loan system. Congress must see to it that the malicious actors who seek to con students and line their own pockets are stopped.

Mr. Speaker, the Stop Student Debt Relief Scams Act is bipartisan legislation that holds third-party debt collection scammers accountable for their predatory schemes to line their pockets at the expense of hardworking families.

At a time when Americans are feeling the financial impact of the coronavirus pandemic, this legislation is even more important and is a commonsense measure to prevent borrowers from falling victim to these scams.

Today's legislation will help strengthen the tools Federal and State officials need to combat these bad actors while also educating student loan borrowers.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

He is called the gentleman from Pennsylvania, but some of us also call him the gentleman from Lancaster.

I truly want to thank my colleague on the other side of the aisle, Mr. SMUCKER, for his leadership on this critical piece of bipartisan legislation to stand up for hardworking Americans, to stand up for our students, and to put into place a clarified law declaring that it is a Federal crime to access U.S. Department of Education information technology systems for purposes of fraud, commercial advantage, or private financial gain, and that fines these scammers up to \$20,000, or up to 5 years of imprisonment, as my colleague so nicely articulated.

This is an attempt today to shut down predatory scammers who are targeting our student borrowers, for the financial health of the American people.

Again, I strongly encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join us here today in passing this critical piece of legislation.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Judiciary, Homeland, and Budget Committees, I rise in strong support of S. 1153, the "Stop Student Debt Relief Scams Act," which helps protect borrowers from deceptive student debt relief scams by enhancing law enforcement and administrative abilities to identify and shut down such student debt relief scams.

With ordinary Americans facing nearly \$1.5 trillion in student loan debt, borrowers are looking for relief wherever they can find it but unfortunately many borrowers do not receive the right information about how to find out and qualify for opportunities to get help with lowering or postponing their payments or applying for relief, nearly all of which is available for free.

These include income-driven repayment, deferment, forbearance, consolidation, rehabilitation, and even some programs for loan forgiveness.

Debt relief scams falsely promise borrowers a quick fix with little hassle and their business model is to robocall student loan borrowers until they agree to pay thousands of dollars in unnecessary and exorbitant fees for services that are already available for free.

They claim to reduce or forgive borrowers' student debt and take care of all the paperwork.

Some even purport to be associated with the federal government.

Most victims of these deceptive debt relief scams are not only defrauded by the companies that promised to help them, but unknowingly become delinquent on their payments and default on their loans, miss communications with their servicers, and fall even deeper into debt.

S. 1153, the Stop Student Debt Relief Scams Act of 2019 would accelerate the end to this rampant misconduct.

Specifically, the Stop Student Debt Relief Scams Act of 2019 will enhance law enforcement and administrative abilities to identify and shut down student debt relief scams by:

Clarifying that it is a federal crime to access U.S. Department of Education information technology systems for fraud, commercial advantage, or private financial gain, and fines scammers up to \$20,000, up to 5 years imprisonment, or both, for violations of the law;

Directing the U.S. Department of Education to create a new form of third-party access, akin to the current "preparer" function on the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) for those applying on behalf of a student and their family, in order to protect legitimate organizations—such as legal aid groups—that help borrowers navigate repayment;

Requiring the U.S. Department of Education to maintain commonsense reporting, detection, and prevention activities to stop potential or known debt relief scams; and

Requiring student loan exit counseling to warn federal loan borrowers about debt relief

scams, in recognition of the fact that borrowers may fall prey to false promises because they lack sufficient information on legitimate programs to help them manage repayment.

This is needed legislation and I am pleased it has been endorsed by Education Finance Council, Generation Progress, National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low income clients), National Council of Higher Education Resources, Student Loan Servicing Alliance, The Institute for College Access and Success, and Young Invincibles.

I urge all Members to join me in voting for S. 1153, the “Stop Student Debt Relief Scams Act.”

□ 1400

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1153.

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.

CALLING FOR GLOBAL REPEAL OF BLASPHEMY, HERESY, AND APOSTASY LAWS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 512) calling for the global repeal of blasphemy, heresy, and apostasy laws, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 386, nays 3, answered “present” 1, not voting 39, as follows:

[Roll No. 236]

YEAS—386

Adams	Boyle, Brendan	Cisneros
Aguilar	F.	Clark (MA)
Allred	Brindisi	Clarke (NY)
Amodei	Brooks (AL)	Clay
Armstrong	Brooks (IN)	Cleaver
Arrington	Brown (MD)	Cline
Axne	Brownley (CA)	Cloud
Babin	Bucshon	Clyburn
Bacon	Budd	Cohen
Baird	Burchett	Cole
Balderson	Burgess	Comer
Banks	Bustos	Conaway
Barr	Butterfield	Connolly
Barragán	Carbajal	Cooper
Bass	Cárdenas	Correa
Beatty	Carson (IN)	Costa
Bera	Carter (GA)	Courtney
Bergman	Cartwright	Cox (CA)
Beyer	Case	Craig
Bilirakis	Casten (IL)	Crawford
Bishop (NC)	Castor (FL)	Crenshaw
Bishop (UT)	Castro (TX)	Crist
Blumenauer	Chabot	Crow
Blunt Rochester	Cheney	Cuellar
Bonamici	Chu, Judy	Cunningham
Boat	Cicilline	Curtis

Davidson (OH)	David (CA)	Davis, Danny K.	Davis, Rodney	Dean	DeFazio	DeGette	DeLauro	DelBene	Delgado	Demings	DeSaulnier	DesJarlais	Deutch	Diaz-Balart	Dingell	Doggett	Doyle, Michael F.	Duncan	Emmer	Engel	Escobar	Eshoo	Españolat	Estes	Evans	Ferguson	Finkenauer	Fitzpatrick	Fleischmann	Fletcher	Flores	Fortenberry	Foster	Fox (NC)	Frankel	Fudge	Fulcher	Gallagher	Garamendi	Garcia (CA)	Garcia (IL)	Garcia (TX)	Gohmert	Golden	Gomez	Gonzalez (OH)	Gonzalez (TX)	Gooden	Gottheimer	Granger	Graves (MO)	Green (TN)	Green, Al (TX)	Griffith	Grijalva	Grothman	Guest	Guthrie	Haaland	Hagedorn	Hall	Harder (CA)	Harris	Hartzer	Hastings	Hayes	Heck	Hern, Kevin	Herrera Beutler	Hice (GA)	Higgins (NY)	Hill (AR)	Himes	Hollingsworth	Horn, Kendra S.	Horsford	Houlihan	Hoyer	Hudson	Huffman	Hurd (TX)	Jackson Lee	Jacobs	Jayapal	Jeffries	Johnson (GA)	Johnson (LA)	Johnson (OH)	Johnson (SD)	Johnson (TX)	Jordan	Joyce (OH)	Joyce (PA)	Kaptur	Katko	Keating	Keller	Kelly (IL)	Kelly (MS)	Kelly (PA)	Kennedy	Khanna	Kildee	Kilmer	Kim	Kind	King (NY)	Kinziger	Kirkpatrick	Krishnamoorthi	Kuster (NH)	Kustoff (TN)	LaHood	LaMalfa	Lamb	Lamborn	Langevin	Larsen (WA)	Latta	Lawrence	Lawson (FL)	Lee (CA)	Lee (NV)	Lesko	Levin (CA)	Levin (MI)	Lieu, Ted	Lipinski	Loebbeck	Lofgren	Long	Loudermilk	Lowenthal	Lowe	Lucas	Luetkemeyer	Lujan	Luria	Lynch	Malinowski	Maloney	Carolyn B.	Maloney, Sean	Marshall	Mast	Matsui	McAdams	McBath	McCarthy	McCaul	McCollum	McEachin	McGovern	McKinley	McNerney	Meeks	Meng	Meuser	Mfume	Miller	Moolenaar	Mooney (WV)	Moore	Morille	Moulton	Mucarsel-Powell	Mullin	Murphy (FL)	Murphy (NC)	Nadler	Napolitano	Neal	Newhouse	Norcross	Norman	Nunes	O'Halleran	Ocasio-Cortez	Olson	Omar	Palazzo	Pallone	Palmer	Panetta	Pappas	Pascarella	Payne	Pence	Perlmutter	Perry	Peters	Peterson	Phillips	Pingree	Pocan	Porter	Posey	Pressley	Price (NC)	Quigley	Raskin	Reed	Rice (NY)	Rice (SC)	Riggleman	Roby	Roe, David P.	Rogers (AL)	Rogers (KY)	Rose (NY)	Rose, John W.	Rouda	Rouzer	Roybal-Allard	Ruiz	Ruppersberger	Rush	Rutherford	Ryan	Sánchez	Sarbanes	Scalise	Scanlon	Schakowsky	Schiff	Schneider	Schrader	Schrier	Schweikert	Scott (VA)	Scott, David	Serrano	Sewell (AL)	Shalala	Sherman	Sherrill	Simpson	Sires	Slotkin	Smith (MO)	Smith (NE)	Smith (NJ)	Smith (WA)	Smucker	Soto	Spanberger	Spano	Speier	Stanton	Staubert	Stefanik	Steil	Steube	Stevens	Stewart	Stivers	Suozzi	Swalwell (CA)	Takano	Taylor	Thompson (CA)	Thompson (MS)	Thompson (PA)	Thornberry	Tiffany	Timmons	Tipton	Titus	Tlaib	Tonko	Torres (CA)	Torres Small (NM)	Trahan	Trone	Turner	Underwood	Upton	Van Drew	Vargas	Veasey	Vela	Velázquez	Visclosky	Wagner	Walberg	Walden	Waltz	Wasserman	Schultz	Waters	Watkins	Watson Coleman	Weber (TX)	Webster (FL)	Welch	Wenstrup	Westerman	Wexton	Wild	Williams	Wilson (FL)	Wilson (SC)	Wittman	Womack	Woodall	Yarmuth	Yoho	Young	Zeldin
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NAYS—3

Biggs Massie Roy

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—1

Amash

NOT VOTING—39

Abraham	Gaetz	McHenry
Aderholt	Gallagher	Mitchell
Allen	Gianforte	Neguse
Bishop (GA)	Gibbs	Reschenthaler
Brady	Gosar	Richmond
Buchanan	Graves (LA)	Rodgers (WA)
Buck	Higgins (LA)	Rooney (FL)
Byrne	Holding	Scott, Austin
Calvert	Huizenga	Sensenbrenner
Carter (TX)	King (IA)	Shimkus
Collins (GA)	Larson (CT)	Walker
Dunn	Marchant	Walorski
Gabbard	McClintock	Wright

□ 1500

Messrs. GREEN of Tennessee and STAUBER changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

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 965, 116TH CONGRESS

Barragán (Beyer)	Kind (Beyer)	Pingree
Bera (Aguilar)	Kirkpatrick	(Cicilline)
Bonamici (Clark)	(Stanton)	Pocan (Raskin)
(MA)	Kuster (NH)	Porter (Wexton)
Brownley (CA)	(Clark (MA))	Pressley
(Clark (MA))	Lamb (Crow)	(Cicilline)
Cárdenas	Lawson (FL)	Price (NC)
(Cisneros)	(Demings)	(Butterfield)
Castor (FL)	Lieu, Ted (Beyer)	Rouda (Aguilar)
(Demings)	Lipinski	Roybal-Allard
Cohen (Beyer)	(Schrader)	(Garcia (TX))
Costa (Cooper)	Lofgren (Jeffries)	Ruiz (Dingell)
Cunningham	Lowenthal	Rush
(Murphy (FL))	(Beyer)	(Underwood)
Dean (Scanlon)	Lowe (Tonko)	Schneider
DeSaulnier	McEachin	(Casten (IL))
(Matsui)	(Wexton)	Schrier
Deutch (Rice)	Meng (Clark)	(DelBene)
(NY)	(MA))	Serrano
Doggett (Raskin)	Moore (Beyer)	(Jeffries)
Frankel (Clark)	Mucarsel-Powell	Titus (Connolly)
(MA))	(Wasserman)	Tlaib (Dingell)
Garamendi	Schultz)	Trahan
(Sherman)	Nadler (Jeffries)	(McGovern)
Grijalva (Garcia)	Napolitano	Vargas (Correa)
(IL))	(Correa)	Velázquez
Hastings	Pascarella	(Clarke (NY))
(Wasserman)	(Pallone)	Watson Coleman
Schultz)	Payne	(Pallone)
Jayapal (Raskin)	(Wasserman)	Welch
Johnson (TX)	Schultz)	(McGovern)
(Jeffries)	Peters (Kildee)	Wilson (FL)
Kim (Davids)	Peterson (Craig)	(Hayes)
(KS))		

HBCU PROPELLING AGENCY RELATIONSHIPS TOWARDS A NEW ERA OF RESULTS FOR STUDENTS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. DAVIS of California). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 461) to strengthen the capacity and competitiveness of historically Black colleges and universities through robust public-sector, private-sector, and community partnerships and engagement, and for other purposes, as

amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 388, nays 6, not voting 35, as follows:

[Roll No. 237]

YEAS—388

Adams	Dean	Jayapal
Aguilar	DeFazio	Jeffries
Allred	DeGette	Johnson (GA)
Amodei	DeLauro	Johnson (LA)
Armstrong	DelBene	Johnson (OH)
Arrington	Delgado	Johnson (SD)
Axne	Demings	Johnson (TX)
Babin	DeSaulnier	Jordan
Bacon	DesJarlais	Joyce (OH)
Baird	Deutch	Joyce (PA)
Balderson	Diaz-Balart	Kaptur
Banks	Dingell	Katko
Barr	Doggett	Keating
Barragán	Doyle, Michael	Keller
Bass	F.	Kelly (IL)
Beatty	Duncan	Kelly (MS)
Bera	Emmer	Kelly (PA)
Bergman	Engel	Kennedy
Beyer	Escobar	Khanna
Bilirakis	Eshoo	Kildee
Bishop (NC)	Españolat	Kilmer
Bishop (UT)	Estes	Kim
Blumenauer	Evans	Kind
Blunt Rochester	Ferguson	King (NY)
Bonamici	Finkenauer	Kinzinger
Bost	Fitzpatrick	Kirkpatrick
Boyle, Brendan	Fleischmann	Krishnamoorthi
F.	Fletcher	Kuster (NH)
Brindisi	Flores	Kustoff (TN)
Brooks (IN)	Fortenberry	LaHood
Brown (MD)	Foster	LaMalfa
Brownley (CA)	Fox (NC)	Lamb
Bucshon	Frankel	Lamborn
Budd	Fudge	Langevin
Burchett	Fulcher	Larsen (WA)
Burgess	Gabbard	Latta
Bustos	Gallagher	Lawrence
Butterfield	Garamendi	Lawson (FL)
Carbajal	Garcia (CA)	Lee (CA)
Cárdenas	Garcia (IL)	Lee (NV)
Carson (IN)	Garcia (TX)	Lesko
Carter (GA)	Gohmert	Levy (CA)
Cartwright	Golden	Levin (MI)
Case	Gomez	Lieu, Ted
Casten (IL)	Gonzalez (OH)	Lipinski
Castor (FL)	Gonzalez (TX)	Loeb
Castro (TX)	Gooden	Lofgren
Chabot	Gottheimer	Long
Cheney	Granger	Loudermilk
Chu, Judy	Graves (MO)	Lowenthal
Ciçilline	Green (TN)	Lowe
Cisneros	Green, Al (TX)	Lucas
Clark (MA)	Griffith	Luetkemeyer
Clarke (NY)	Grijalva	Lujan
Clay	Grothman	Luria
Cleaver	Guest	Lynch
Cline	Guthrie	Malinowski
Cloud	Haaland	Maloney,
Clyburn	Hagedorn	Carolyn B.
Cohen	Hall	Maloney, Sean
Cole	Harder (CA)	Marshall
Comer	Harris	Mast
Conaway	Hartzler	Matsui
Connolly	Hastings	McAdams
Cooper	Hayes	McBath
Correa	Heck	McCarthy
Costa	Hern, Kevin	McCaul
Courtney	Herrera Beutler	McCollum
Cox (CA)	Hice (GA)	McEachin
Craig	Higgins (NY)	McGovern
Crawford	Hill (AR)	McKinley
Crenshaw	Himes	McNerney
Crist	Hollingsworth	Meeks
Crow	Horn, Kendra S.	Meng
Cuellar	Horsford	Meuser
Cunningham	Houlahan	Mfume
Curtis	Hoyer	Miller
Davids (KS)	Hudson	Moolenaar
Davidson (OH)	Huffman	Mooney (WV)
Davis (CA)	Hurd (TX)	Moore
Davis, Danny K.	Jackson Lee	Morelle
Davis, Rodney	Jacobs	Moulton

Mucarsel-Powell	Rouzer	Thompson (MS)
Mullin	Roybal-Allard	Thompson (PA)
Murphy (FL)	Ruiz	Thornberry
Murphy (NC)	Ruppersberger	Tiffany
Nadler	Rush	Timmons
Napolitano	Rutherford	Tipton
Neal	Ryan	Titus
Neguse	Sánchez	Tlaib
Newhouse	Sarbanes	Tonko
Norcross	Scalise	Torres (CA)
Norman	Scanlon	Torres Small
Nunes	Schakowsky	(NM)
O'Halleran	Schiff	Trahan
Ocasio-Cortez	Schneider	Trone
Olson	Schrader	Turner
Omar	Schrier	Underwood
Palazzo	Schweikert	Upton
Pallone	Scott (VA)	Van Drew
Palmer	Scott, David	Vargas
Panetta	Serrano	Veasey
Pappas	Sewell (AL)	Vela
Pascarell	Shalala	Velázquez
Payne	Sherman	Visclosky
Pence	Sherrill	Wagner
Perlmutter	Simpson	Walberg
Perry	Sires	Walden
Peters	Slotkin	Waltz
Peterson	Smith (MO)	Wasserman
Phillips	Smith (NE)	Schultz
Pingree	Smith (NJ)	Waters
Pocan	Smith (WA)	Watkins
Porter	Smucker	Watson Coleman
Posey	Soto	Weber (TX)
Pressley	Spanberger	Webster (FL)
Price (NC)	Spano	Welch
Quigley	Speier	Wenstrup
Raskin	Stanton	Westerman
Reed	Stauber	Wexton
Rice (NY)	Stefanik	Wild
Rice (SC)	Steil	Williams
Riggleman	Steube	Wilson (FL)
Roby	Stevens	Wilson (SC)
Rodgers (WA)	Stewart	Wittman
Roe, David P.	Stivers	Womack
Rogers (AL)	Suozi	Woodall
Rogers (KY)	Swallow (CA)	Yarmuth
Rose (NY)	Takano	Yoho
Rose, John W.	Taylor	Young
Rouda	Thompson (CA)	Zeldin

NAYS—6

Amash	Brooks (AL)	McClintock
Biggs	Massie	Roys

NOT VOTING—35

Abraham	Gaetz	McHenry
Aderholt	Galleo	Mitchell
Allen	Gianforte	Reschenthaler
Bishop (GA)	Gibbs	Richmond
Brady	Gosar	Rooney (FL)
Buchanan	Graves (LA)	Scott, Austin
Buck	Higgins (LA)	Sensenbrenner
Byrne	Holding	Shimkus
Calvert	Huizenga	Walker
Carter (TX)	King (IA)	Walorski
Collins (GA)	Larson (CT)	Wright
Dunn	Marchant	

□ 1542

Messrs. LIPINSKI and GROTHMAN changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, due to Covid-19, I was unable to vote on December 7, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 236 and “yea” on rollcall No. 237.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BRADY. Mr. Speaker, I was unexpectedly withheld. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 236 (H. Res. 512), and “yea” on rollcall No. 237 (S. 461).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, December 7, 2020, I was unfortu-

nately not present for rollcall votes 236 through 237. Had I been present for these votes, I would have voted: “yea” on rollcall vote 236 on passage Calling for the global repeal of blasphemy, heresy, and apostasy laws, as amended (H. Res. 512), and “yea” on rollcall vote 237 on passage of HBCU PARTNERS Act, as amended Act (S. 461).

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 965, 116TH CONGRESS

Barragán (Beyer)	Kind (Beyer)	Pingree
Bera (Aguilar)	Kirkpatrick	(Cicilline)
Bonamici (Clark)	(Stanton)	Pocan (Raskin)
(MA)	Kuster (NH)	Porter (Wexton)
Brownley (CA)	(Clark (MA))	Pressley
(Clark (MA))	Lamb (Crow)	(Cicilline)
Cárdenas	Lawson (FL)	Price (NC)
(Cisneros)	(Demings)	(Butterfield)
Castor (FL)	Lieu, Ted (Beyer)	Rouda (Aguilar)
(Demings)	Lipinski	Roybal-Allard
Cohen (Beyer)	(Schrader)	(Garcia (TX))
Costa (Cooper)	Lofgren (Jeffries)	Ruiz (Dingell)
Cunningham	Lowenthal	Rush
(Murphy (FL))	(Beyer)	(Underwood)
Dean (Scanlon)	Lowey (Tonko)	Schneider
DeSaulnier	McEachin	(Casten (IL))
(Matsui)	(Wexton)	Schrier
Deutch (Rice)	Meng (Clark)	(DelBene)
(NY)	(MA)	Serrano
Doggett (Raskin)	Moore (Beyer)	(Jeffries)
Frankel (Clark)	Mucarsel-Powell	Titus (Connolly)
(MA)	(Wasserman)	Tlaib (Dingell)
Garamendi	Schultz	Trahan
(Sherman)	Nadler (Jeffries)	(McGovern)
Grijalva (Garcia)	(IL)	Vargas (Correa)
(IL)	(Correa)	Velázquez
Hastings	Pascarell	(Clarke (NY))
(Wasserman)	(Pallone)	Watson Coleman
Schultz)	Payne	(Pallone)
Jayapal (Raskin)	(Wasserman)	Welch
Johnson (TX)	Schultz)	(McGovern)
(Jeffries)	Peters (Kildee)	Wilson (FL)
Kim (Davids)	Peterson (Craig)	(Hayes)
(KS)		

RESTORING A ROBUST RURAL ECONOMY

(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 enthusiastically support the Growing Opportunities in Agriculture Act, or the GO Ag Act. The GO Ag Act combines two of my passions: agriculture and career technical education.

The GO Ag Act would make \$5 million available through the Perkins Act to help schools launch agricultural education programs, including FFA chapters. Students learn about the agricultural industry and how it intersects with math, science, and technology.

Restoring a robust rural economy depends largely upon appealing to the next generation. Investing in education is perhaps the most commonsense way to prepare individuals who are passionate about a career in agriculture for the workforce. The GO Ag Act is not only an investment in agriculture education, but also the future of our agricultural supply chain.

I am proud to cosponsor this legislation because I believe investing in agriculture education is an important step in bolstering rural economies and strengthening rural communities.

RECOGNIZING THE 79TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 79th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. I recently had the opportunity to visit with a constituent of mine from Pasco County, Florida, Mr. Wigmore, on his 100th birthday. Mr. Wigmore is a Pearl Harbor survivor, and I appreciate his heroism.

While there are very few Pearl Harbor survivors remaining throughout our Nation, unfortunately, we must never forget their bravery, service, and sacrifice.

On the morning of December 7, 1941, Japan launched a sneak attack on the U.S. Pacific Fleet's base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. Tragically, the attack killed 2,403 American servicemembers—heroes, Mr. Speaker—and wounded almost 1,200 more. Despite inflicting heavy casualties, the attackers failed to achieve their objective of disabling the U.S. fleet.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we all remember the lives lost on that day and celebrate the remarkable contributions that the Greatest Generation made for all of us.

REMEMBERING THE 79TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, at 7:48 a.m. on December 7, 1941, the Empire of Japan deliberately attacked the United States—a sneak attack—at our naval station at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

This surprise attack was meant to cripple the United States Pacific Fleet before we had the chance to do anything about World War II. Rather than facing defeat, the American people—our soldiers, our military, all of us—fought back.

In the end, it was the determined spirit of the American military and the commitment of Americans to innovate and use all of our materials to produce wartime products that ultimately led to an Allied victory.

Just a few short months later, on April 18, 1942, America struck back with the Jimmy Doolittle Raiders telling the islands of Japan that we are here and we are not going away. They were heroes there as well.

Mr. Speaker, 79 years later we honor the 2,403 servicemembers and civilians who were killed that day—a day which President Roosevelt said was a date which will live in infamy. We owe them a huge amount of gratitude, and we also need to remember that our own military readiness needs to be on con-

stant alert and that we need to do everything we can today to make sure that we as Americans are ready for any threat.

COVID VACCINES

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, there are 14.8 million cases of COVID-19, now some 282,000 deaths. In the State of Texas, there are 1.3 million, an increase of 10,000 cases and 23,000-plus deaths. The numbers keep going up. The scientists predict that we may have as many as 500,000 deaths by March 2021.

There has to be a national protocol of wearing masks, socially distancing, and washing your hands. But as we begin to do the vaccines, there must be a public understanding of, one, the safety of those vaccines; but, number two, the vaccines should be distributed in our small and local hospitals that our communities are familiar with along with local health facilities.

We will be working to ensure that populations—people of color and indigenous people who are impacted—have access to vaccines where they are familiar with medical professionals. That should be the route of the United States Congress and pass the COVID-19 package not next week, but this week. Our constituents are desperate.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF HENDERSON COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT MARGANNA STANLEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Cox of California). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I am going to spend the next 30 or so minutes discussing some various topics and recognizing a few people in my congressional district for various things.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marganna Stanley of Henderson County on her retirement after 30 years as an educator, including serving the last 6 years as superintendent of Henderson County Schools.

Ms. Stanley has lived out her childhood dream of teaching and has maintained an unwavering love for education throughout her career. Through the years, she has worked in various roles in the Henderson County school system, including serving as a classroom teacher in the district office, as a principal, and eventually as superintendent.

Although the roles have changed, her passion for educating students has not. Even when she wasn't in the classroom every day, she would regularly show up to read to classrooms and find other ways to maintain a close connection with students.

I am honored to congratulate Ms. Stanley on a successful tenure as an educator in my congressional district. I know that she has left a positive impact on the lives of numerous young people over the past 30 years, and I wish her nothing but the best in her retirement.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF JUDGE TIMOTHY STARK

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Judge Timothy Stark of Graves County on his upcoming retirement after 16 years of distinguished service as circuit court judge.

A lifelong Graves County native, Judge Stark is well-respected in his community and has a knowledge of the law that is second to none. He has led on issues of extreme importance, including introducing a drug court program which has helped countless individuals get their lives back on track. Over the years, he has served as a mentor to many young people in the legal profession, including my chief of staff, Caroline Cash.

There is no doubt that Judge Stark's leadership in the judicial arena will be missed. I salute him for his years of service and wish him nothing but the best in a well-earned retirement.

RECOGNIZING CURTIS HANCOCK

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and honor that I rise to recognize my dear friend, Curtis Hancock, on his retirement from the Farm Credit Council Board of Directors and his many contributions to Kentucky agriculture. Curtis Hancock is a lifelong farmer and, today, owns and operates Hancock Family Farms growing corn, wheat, and soybeans in Fulton, Kentucky.

Throughout his career, Curtis has shown great support for agriculture through leadership positions across the industry, and I have had the pleasure of seeing firsthand his tireless advocacy for farmers and ranchers.

Curtis' leadership and contributions to Kentucky agriculture are unmatched, including as a former board member of Kentucky Small Grain Growers' Association, a former member of Hickman County Farm Bureau, the local Southern States Cooperative, and the Hickman County Farm Service Agency.

Curtis has also been an advocate for Kentucky farmers within the Farm Credit System. Curtis was a longtime director and past board chair at River Valley AgCredit in Mayfield, Kentucky, which supports farmers throughout my district. He also serves on the board and is past chair at AgFirst Farm Credit Bank, which supports farmers in rural communities throughout the Southeast. Since 2003, Curtis has served on the Farm Credit Council Board of Directors, including 2 years as chair of the national organization.

Curtis received a bachelor of science degree in agriculture from the University of Tennessee-Martin and a master

of science degree in agriculture economics from the University of Tennessee. Despite that, Curtis remains a very loyal fan of the University of Kentucky Wildcats.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the citizens of Kentucky's First Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Curtis on his retirement and thank him for his many years of honorable service to the farmers and ranchers of Kentucky.

Kentucky farmers and American farmers are better off today as a result of Curtis Hancock's long service on their behalf. I wish Curtis and his wife, Mary Elizabeth, the very best in the years to come.

HONORING THE NEW CHAIR OF PADUCAH AIRPORT

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jay Matheny for being elected chairman of the Barkley Regional Airport Authority Board.

Mr. Matheny will oversee the ongoing construction work for the new terminal for the airport, which he has already been closely involved with. The project has been called the airport for our future, and I believe that Mr. Matheny is the right person to see this project through to its scheduled completion in 2023.

Due to west Kentucky's proximity to the other major airports of St. Louis, Louisville, and Nashville, this terminal will attract more flights and bring numerous economic opportunities to the region. I am proud of the multiple entities that have worked together from the city, State, and Federal levels to get this project underway.

Congratulations, once again, to Mr. Matheny for being chosen as chairman. I look forward to the completion of this airport terminal and the economic growth it will provide for Paducah and west Kentucky.

□ 1600

HONORING GARY JONES OF MUHLENBERG COUNTY

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Gary Jones of Muhlenberg County on his extraordinary tenure as the director of the Muhlenberg Alliance for Progress.

Gary will be retiring at the end of the month after 8 years of leadership with the Alliance for Progress where he has aggressively prioritized economic development in Western Kentucky. In this role, he has worked tirelessly to attract jobs to Muhlenberg County and empower job creators in the region.

A fellow graduate of my alma mater of Western Kentucky University, his 46-year career has spanned across roles in education, the coal industry, local government, and the Federal Government.

These diverse work experiences have made him keenly aware of the economic deeds facing rural communities. His ability to develop relationships with community and industry leaders has also been instrumental to his job attraction efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Gary for his sincere efforts to improve economic de-

velopment and wish him nothing but the best in a well-deserved retirement.

KENTUCKY'S ECONOMIC FAILURES AND LOCKDOWNS

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring attention to Kentucky's avoidable economic failures during this very serious pandemic. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has taken a harsh toll on the economies of all 50 States. However, harmful policies from Democrat-run States have only made the problem worse. At a time when we should be encouraging the safe reopening of our economy, Kentucky's Governor recently issued an order shutting down schools and indoor dining.

Kentucky's restaurants were already suffering from the last round of shutdowns, and this short-sighted order will only cause more pain and suffering.

To make matters worse, our Governor is producing no data to justify the need to shut down businesses which have dramatically adjusted to the challenges presented by COVID-19. And the end of in-person learning will only create more challenges for students and teachers. Furthermore, it flies in the face of CDC recommendations that the safest place for our children is in school.

Unfortunately, small business owners are not the only ones negatively affected by these lockdowns. Workers have been put out of a job through no fault of their own. And to make matters worse, Kentucky's State government has proven itself too incompetent to distribute unemployment payments in a timely manner.

Right now, Kentucky has the second highest unemployment backlog in America, with just 20 percent of benefits going out 3 weeks after a claim is made. That is unacceptable. Our surrounding States of Indiana and Tennessee are more than doubling that number, getting 60 percent of payments out after 3 weeks. If a politician single-handedly puts people out of work, the least they can do is process their unemployment claims in a timely manner.

Kentucky families are struggling from these lockdowns and, unfortunately, finding little help from their State government in Frankfort. The livelihoods of working families and job creators have been cast aside by power-hungry politicians and it is delaying our economic recovery. We must do better. We must safely reopen the economy and support our small businesses and workers.

Mr. Speaker, with a vaccine on the horizon, the best thing we can do for our economy is to safely reopen. Further shutdowns are doing nothing but digging a further hole for our economy to get out of. In Kentucky, we can do better.

OVERSIGHT AND REFORM REPUBLICAN INVESTIGATION

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk about the ongoing investigation within the House Committee on Over-

sight and Reform among oversight Republicans.

The minority—the Republicans—have requested several hearings, but unfortunately, Chairwoman MALONEY and the majority House Democrats are uninterested or unwilling to comply. So we have taken it upon ourselves to inquire and pretty much open up investigations with our staff, with our investigators, and have taken data from our whistleblowers and different stakeholders with each investigation.

We currently have caught a situation before the election, in California, where—with the CARES Act—there was a part called the Help America Vote Act that allocated funds for different States to educate voters on how to vote. In other words, to educate voters on where their precincts are and how to fill out an absentee ballot—things that are perfectly legal and things that the Federal Government should fund, and the State government should administer.

Mr. Speaker, within the rules—something that a lot of times my friends on the other side of the aisle don't think apply to themselves—but in the rules of the Help America Vote Act, it specifically says what those Federal funds can and cannot be used for. One of the things that it specifically says the Federal funds cannot be used for is to get out the vote efforts.

But in California, which was awarded \$35 million in the CARES Act of Help America Vote Act funds, their Secretary of State Padilla took the \$35 million. The normal process would be to advertise bids for a contract, but Secretary Padilla did what a lot of Democrat secretaries of state—and unfortunately, some Republican secretaries of state did—they said, Oh, there is a pandemic. We can't do this the normal way. We have to do it a special way.

So he awarded this contract with no bid. There were plenty of vendors that were interested in bidding on that contract but he awarded it to one. And in the Help America Vote Act it specifically says that vendors can't be partisan. That is common sense, right?

This contract that he awarded, a \$35 million of our Federal taxpayer funds in a no-bid process, the firm that received that contract was called SKDKnickerbocker. I invite you right now to get your phone out and put in "SKDKnickerbocker," and look at their website.

It will pop up, and what you will see is a picture of Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS shaking hands. And it proudly says—on the very top of the website—"We want to congratulate our clients, Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS, for changing America, and for winning." So this firm, SKDKnickerbocker was clearly a partisan firm. This firm represented the Biden campaign.

Now, my question to anyone interested in this—and I think most taxpayers would be interested in this—obviously, the House Democrats on the

Committee on Oversight and Reform are uninterested in this, but if the secretary of state awards a no-bid contract to a Joe Biden partisan firm to get out to vote, do you really think they are going to target Republican voters, or do you think they are going to target Democrat voters? That is illegal.

Mr. Speaker, we have sent letters to Secretary Padilla asking him what his intentions were and why he did not follow the law on this contract. He has not replied. I have made this public. I went on the Tucker Carlson Show a few months ago and brought this to the Nation's attention. As a result of this, and our messaging and our inquiries, the media in California has been writing about this.

The Sacramento Bee wrote just this past week that the California comptroller has refused to pay the \$35 million bill to SKDKnickerbocker because they know there is a problem with this no-bid contract awarded to a partisan firm that was Joe Biden's main digital firm to microtarget certain voters in California.

Mr. Speaker, what I am asking for now is for the comptroller of California to just go ahead and do the right thing and send that \$35 million back to the Treasury. We don't want taxpayer dollars being spent on improper, illegal, unethical, and partisan instances. And that is what happened in California.

Now, another reason this isn't going to go away—I am not an expert on California politics—but while I was waiting for my time to speak, I read several things that said Secretary of State Padilla is the frontrunner to fill KAMALA HARRIS' seat for the U.S. Senate. I strongly encourage the secretary of state to answer House Republicans' inquiries on this issue, because if he doesn't answer it now and he does, in fact, get confirmed to the U.S. Senate, he is probably going to have to answer it in front of the Senate Committee on Ethics.

Now, one thing that I pledged to do when I became ranking member of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform is, we weren't just going to identify problems. We were going to try to represent the taxpayers, and we weren't just going to identify instances of waste, fraud and abuse, like this \$35 million no-bid contract in California. We were going to try to claw back that money—get the money back. It seems like forever in Congress, Members of Congress do the right thing and they identify wrongful spending, but nothing ever happens. No one is ever held accountable. Certainly, the taxpayers never get their money back. This is an instance we are not going to let up.

Mr. Speaker, we are operating in a huge deficit. We have to be accountable for the taxpayers. That is the job of this Congress. The Committee on Oversight and Reform is serious. The Republicans on the Committee on Oversight and Reform are going in a new direction. Not only are we going to iden-

tify problems, but we are going to try to solve problems because we are going to get the backs of the American taxpayer.

And I think I have clearly spelled out the problems with this contract. And I believe that the fact that the comptroller in California isn't willing to write that check for the bill, that proves that there was a problem there. If anything I have said today is incorrect, then I welcome Secretary Padilla to answer our inquiry. And if anything I have said that was not right, I will apologize to the secretary of state for that. But clearly, sitting there not responding, is not helping the situation and, again, it is not going to go away.

Mr. Speaker, now another thing with this contract, I have spelled out the problem that the State of California, the secretary of state has with this \$35 million no-bid contract. The next part of the problem with this particular investigation is our committee has sent numerous letters to a government agency that a lot of people probably never heard of, called the Election Assistance Commission.

The Election Assistance Commission is a government agency, bureaucracy, entity—whatever you want to call it—that is supposed to be the watchdog for Federal funding pertaining to elections. They have an inspector general. I have written—and on those letters, they were signed by my colleague on the Committee on Oversight and Reform, JODY HICE of Georgia, and the ranking member of the House Administration Committee, RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois—we have jointly written letters to the Inspector General of the Election Assistance Commission for the Inspector General to investigate this \$35 million contract. We wrote these letters weeks in advance of the November elections. And we have gotten back form letters, kind of like form letters that we send out to people that call our office every day and ask for things that we are probably not going to be able to do. We always reply with nice form letters. That is what the ranking members of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform and the House Administration Committee got.

If the Election Assistance Commission can't investigate this one thing in this election—and I am not even going to get into a debate today about whether there were irregularities or not. That is not what I am discussing today. I am discussing a specific irregularity that involved taxpayer dollars.

□ 1615

If the Election Assistance Commission inspector general cannot investigate that and come up with an answer and say, "Okay, the Secretary the State was right," or, "Okay, you were right, and the money should be returned," if they can't get us an answer on that, then the next step we are going to suggest, as Republican members of the Committee on Oversight

and Reform, will be to eliminate the Election Assistance Commission.

If you can't take an inquiry from Congress and investigate it, especially when the media in California—not exactly a bastion of Republican support—when they are calling the Secretary of State out on this contract, then I think we have a problem with this government agency.

Government is too big. I have been in Washington 4 years now. There are a lot of buildings in this city with a lot of government employees, a lot of government programs. Honestly, in my opinion, we don't have the ability to continue to fund all of these government programs, all of these government agencies, and all of these government employees. If we can find government agencies that refuse to do their jobs, then we should eliminate those government agencies.

So, my remarks today are specifically about the contract in California with the Secretary of State, the contract for the Help America Vote Act, which was in the CARES Act, which was a no-bid contract to a partisan firm to do illegal things, like microtarget voters. That is my first complaint, the \$35 million.

My second complaint is the Election Assistance Commission. With the one request that we made, I have been very unimpressed, disappointed, shocked, to the point now I am angered. Now, as a taxpayer and someone who wants to get the back of the taxpayer, I think it is time to look at this agency and say: Is this something that we need moving forward?

Mr. Speaker, I am going to conclude my remarks, again, with reference to the Committee on Oversight and Reform. As a member of the committee for the past 4 years, I have heard a lot of Democrats complain about the 2016 election, imply that there were irregularities in the election. I have heard my friend DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ complain, probably rightfully so, about the emails being hacked at the Democratic National Committee. We have had discussions about that.

I know that when Elijah Cummings became chairman of the committee, the first witness he had was Michael Cohen to talk about irregularities in the 2016 election that he saw from the Trump campaign and things like that. We had those committee hearings, and we have had a lot of those committee hearings.

Here we are today, several weeks after the Presidential election. Regardless of your opinion of the election, regardless of your opinion of the rightful winner, regardless of your opinion of whether there were major irregularities or not, there are a lot of Americans who have a lot of questions about the election process.

There were a lot of things in this election that were unique, not just the absentee voting process where the rules were changed in the middle of the game, but also the number of people who voted by mail and voted absentee.

I feel like the American people deserve one committee in this Chamber to step up and hold a hearing and hear both sides. If I were Chairwoman MALONEY or JAMIE RASKIN or GERRY CONNOLLY or Mr. CLAY, or anybody on the committee who hears this request, if I believed there weren't any irregularities, I would want to have a hearing to make the Republicans look bad. I am disappointed that we are not doing our job in the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

But with the specific investigation that Republicans have done in California, without any help from the Democrats—we don't need their help. We don't need their help on this. We have already proven it. The comptroller in California knows it. We are now asking to send the money back.

If you are not going to explain, Secretary Padilla, if you don't want to talk about it, that is fine. Send the money back, and taxpayers will move on.

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

END PUNISHMENT CLAUSE IN 13TH AMENDMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to share with the House that I am really reserving the time for Mr. BUTTERFIELD from North Carolina, but I will begin. I want to thank my colleague, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, for leading this Special Order hour this evening.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation was founded on principles of liberty and justice for some, but not for all. In fact, it took 89 years after the Declaration of Independence and a brutal Civil War to finally end most forms of slavery.

The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified on December 6, 1865, ending slavery but preserving involuntary servitude for some incarcerated persons.

After a raging debate, former slaveholders in the Southern States held enough influence to preserve the practice and were able to include a loophole in the 13th Amendment to continue to allow slavery as punishment for a crime.

Over the next 155 years, that punishment clause was used as a club to overincarcerate African Americans and other minorities for profit and in complete violation of their human dignity.

Black Americans were immediately targeted and arrested by law enforcement for minor infractions, and the practice of forced prison labor began and still persists to this day.

That is why I, joined by Senator JEFF MERKLEY from Oregon, introduced legislation to amend the Constitution to clarify that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude may be used as punishment for a crime.

I am pleased that many of my colleagues, including Congressman CEDRIC RICHMOND, incoming Assistant Speaker Congresswoman KATHERINE CLARK, and many of my colleagues in the CBC and broader Tri-Caucus, have also taken a leadership role on this issue in legislation.

Confronting and rooting out the systemic racism that is still rampant in many facets of American life requires us to examine the painful truth in order to fix it. It is an indisputable historical fact that many local and State law enforcement practices in this country grew out of the legacy of racism and slavery.

As millions of Americans are demanding criminal justice reform and a change in the training and culture of policing, passage of this constitutional amendment would send a clear signal: Bigotry and profits will no longer be used to deny any person their dignity.

Our criminal justice system and laws cannot be fully respected until we end this injustice that allows disproportionate numbers of Black and Brown people to be imprisoned and enslaved.

As I retire from Congress next month, I urge my colleagues to make passage of this legislation an urgent national priority. America cannot heal and move forward until we have real equality for all instead of just for some.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 473. An act to authorize the Every Word We Utter Monument to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2246. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 West Cherokee Street in Brookhaven, Mississippi, as the "Deputy Donald William Durr, Corporal Zach Moak, and Patrolman James White Memorial Post Office Building".

H.R. 2454. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 East Sharpfish Street in Rosebud, South Dakota, as the "Ben Reifel Post Office Building".

H.R. 2969. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1401 1st Street North in Winter Haven, Florida, as the "Althea Margaret Daily Mills Post Office Building".

H.R. 3005. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13308 Midland Road in Poway, California, as the "Ray Chavez Post Office Building".

H.R. 3275. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 340 Wetmore Avenue in Grand River, Ohio, as the "Lance Corporal Andy 'Ace' Nowacki Post Office".

H.R. 3680. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 415 North Main Street in Henning, Tennessee, as the "Paula Croom Robinson

and Judy Spray Memorial Post Office Building".

H.R. 3847. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 117 West Poythress Street in Hopewell, Virginia, as the "Reverend Curtis West Harris Post Office Building".

H.R. 3870. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 511 West 165th Street in New York, New York, as the "Normandia Maldonado Post Office Building".

H.R. 4034. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 602 Pacific Avenue in Bremerton, Washington, as the "John Henry Turpin Post Office Building".

H.R. 4200. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 321 South 1st Street in Montrose, Colorado, as the "Sergeant David Kinterknecht Post Office".

H.R. 4279. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 445 Main Street in Laceyville, Pennsylvania, as the "Melinda Gene Piccott Post Office".

H.R. 4672. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 21701 Stevens Creek Boulevard in Cupertino, California, as the "Petty Officer 2nd Class (SEAL) Matthew G. Axelson Post Office Building".

H.R. 4725. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8585 Criterion Drive in Colorado Springs, Colorado, as the "Chaplain (Capt.) Dale Goetz Memorial Post Office Building".

H.R. 4785. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1305 U.S. Highway 90 West in Castroville, Texas, as the "Lance Corporal Rhonald Dain Rairdan Post Office".

H.R. 4875. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2201 E. Maple Street in North Canton, Ohio, as the "Lance Cpl. Stacy 'Annie' Dryden Post Office".

H.R. 4971. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15 East Market Street in Leesburg, Virginia, as the "Norman Duncan Post Office Building".

H.R. 4975. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1201 Sycamore Square Drive in Midlothian, Virginia, as the "Dorothy Braden Bruce Post Office Building".

H.R. 5062. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9930 Conroy Windermere Road in Windermere, Florida, as the "Officer Robert German Post Office Building".

H.R. 5307. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 115 Nicol Avenue in Thomasville, Alabama, as the "Postmaster Robert Ingram Post Office".

H.R. 5317. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 315 Addicks Howell Road in Houston, Texas, as the "Deputy Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal Post Office Building".

H.R. 5954. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 108 West Maple Street in Holly, Michigan, as the "Holly Veterans Memorial Post Office".

The message also announced that the Senate has agreed to without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 125. Concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 1830.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following

titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 4409. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 303 East Mississippi Avenue in Elwood, Illinois, as the “Lawrence M. ‘Larry’ Walsh Sr. Post Office”.

S. 4684. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 440 Arapahoe Street in Thermopolis, Wyoming, as the “Robert L. Brown Post Office”.

RECOGNIZING 155TH ANNIVERSARY OF 13TH AMENDMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS), the distinguished chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 155th anniversary of the ratification of the 13th Amendment.

On December 18, 1865, the 13th Amendment was ratified, officially ending more than 256 years of enslavement in the United States for nearly 4 million enslaved African Americans.

The 13th Amendment provides that: “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.”

After the Civil War, the 13th Amendment was the first of three reconstruction amendments adopted. The loophole sentence, however, “except as a punishment for crime,” allowed for African Americans to continue cruel, involuntary labor under what is known as the Black Codes.

To be enslaved, specific laws were passed to ensure that African Americans would be constantly arrested, and then the government would lease human beings out. As African Americans continued to be viewed as property, the government leased people out to businesses, farms, and other types of profit-making ventures.

I would like to acknowledge the former chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, and the CBC’s resident historian, to lead this Special Order hour acknowledging this very important anniversary.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman BASS very much for those very kind words, and I thank her for her friendship and for her leadership over the last 2 years as she has led the 55 men and women of the Congressional Black Caucus. I certainly know from past experience that it is a daunting challenge to lead such a caucus. But I thank her so much for her leadership, and I look forward to the future leadership of our new chair, Congresswoman JOYCE BEATTY.

Today, the Congressional Black Caucus is convening to present a Special

Order, recognizing the 155th anniversary of the ratification of the 13th Amendment.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members will have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I have said for years that the passage and ratification of the 13th Amendment is one of the most significant pieces of legislation ever considered by this body. Had Congress and the States failed to eliminate the despicable institution of slavery, the American experiment would have failed and failed miserably.

This afternoon, the Congressional Black Caucus lifts up this American history for the American people to see and understand.

In the year 1860, the Republican candidate for President was Abraham Lincoln. Three candidates opposed Lincoln: Stephen Douglas from Illinois, representing the Northern wing of the Democratic Party; John Breckinridge from Kentucky, representing the Southern wing of the Democratic Party; and John Bell from Tennessee, representing the Constitutional Union Party.

During this election, Mr. Speaker, the Southern States, the slaveholding Southern States, were very fearful that, if elected, Abraham Lincoln would find a way to end slavery and deprive them of their slaves.

Over a period of 240 years, southern plantation owners had purchased African citizens who had been transshipped to the United States from the continent of Africa.

□ 1630

The original Constitution, which was effective March 4, 1789, addressed the issue of slavery. It contained a provision that would maintain the slave trade for at least 20 years after the ratification of the Constitution, until January 1, 1809. Though the legal end of the slave trade occurred in 1809, slave trafficking continued, to be sure.

Slave women were impregnated by males of both races and encouraged to bear large numbers of children. By 1860, Mr. Speaker, there were nearly 4 million slaves in the United States, mostly in Southern States. The border States of Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, and West Virginia also had a large number of slaves.

On November 6, 1860, Mr. Speaker, it was the Presidential election. The American voters spoke, and did they speak loudly. Abraham Lincoln became the 16th President of the United States of America, winning a very large number of electoral votes.

Immediately following his election, Southern States, 11 Southern States

began seceding from the Union, and that is the map I have here to my left.

The first State to secede was South Carolina, right away, on December 20; Mississippi, January 9; followed by Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas.

Then after those seven States had seceded from the Union, Abraham Lincoln takes the oath of office and becomes the 16th President of the United States. The oath of office took place on March 3. Today, as we all know, it is January 20, but during those times it was March 3.

After Lincoln was installed and inaugurated as President, four more States seceded from the Union. They were Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the United States is faced with a constitutional crisis of monumental proportions. Eleven States, these 11 Southern States, are now considering themselves a separate nation. They refer to themselves as the Confederate States of America.

The so-called Confederate States were formally created on March 11, a mere 8 days following Lincoln’s inauguration. The Confederate States of America adopted a constitution. They created a currency, elected its political leaders, stood up a military, adopted a flag, and attempted to do everything a developing nation would do.

Great tension now existed between the 23 Union States and the 11 Confederate States. So, Mr. Speaker, we all know what happened then. On April 12, 1861, at 4:30 in the morning, Confederate soldiers opened fired upon Union soldiers at Fort Sumter, South Carolina, in the city of Charleston, and the Civil War begins.

It was a brutal war. Southern States had declared war on the Union. Thousands of soldiers lost their lives on both sides of the battle lines.

President Lincoln, Mr. Speaker, became very weary. The war was taking its toll on him. It was taking its toll on the democracy. So on September 22, 1862, Lincoln issued what we now know as the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, announcing that, if the rebels did not end the fighting and rejoin the Union by January 1, 1863, 100 days later, all slaves in the rebellious States would be free.

On January 1, 1863, Lincoln did what he threatened he would do. President Lincoln, using his power as Commander in Chief of the military, issued an executive order. That order is referred to as the historic Emancipation Proclamation.

Mr. Speaker, that proclamation is often recited, and I will recite it here today.

It reads as follows. This is the Emancipation Proclamation. It says:

“On the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the

United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free; and the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and the naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom."

A very powerful executive order by President Lincoln.

But, Mr. Speaker, Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation was monumental. It proclaimed that slaves residing in the States that were in armed rebellion against the Union were free. Union military forces descended upon Southern States to quiet the rebellion and to bring freedom to the slaves.

But, Mr. Speaker, there was great dispute—great dispute—among the legal scholars of that day as to the legal effect of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Lincoln took the position that, as Commander in Chief, he possessed the authority to enter orders that would deprive the enemy of any instruments that would aid them in winning the war. The slaves were a major asset to the slaveholders who were in rebellion. So Lincoln took the position that he possessed the power, the absolute power as Commander in Chief, to free the slaves.

But some scholars argued that the legal effect of the proclamation was doubtful. It was a singular act of the President, they said, without congressional approval or popular vote. There was some question whether the effect of the proclamation would cease at the end of the war, some question how the Supreme Court would rule if the President's order was eventually judicially reviewed.

On April 8, 1864, right in the middle of the war, Mr. Speaker, just before the Presidential election, the United States Senate passed a 13th Amendment to the Constitution, and it needed the approval of this body, the House of Representatives, for it to become law. But House approval was uncertain.

So, 7 months later, after it had passed the Senate, 7 months later, on November 8, 1864, Lincoln was then re-elected. Lincoln was determined now to take ownership of this legislation to abolish slavery. Lincoln demanded that this body, the House of Representatives, pass the legislation that had been passed by the Senate.

Lincoln's election platform had promised that slavery would be abolished by amendment. Lincoln demanded action. White Northern abolitionists, Black abolitionists, demanded action. The war was now at a fever's pitch. Abolition, Mr. Speaker, had to happen.

On January 31, 1865, finally, the House of Representatives, this body, finally took up the question of passage of the 13th Amendment. When the vote was taken that day, the 13th Amendment passed by a two-vote margin, a

two-vote margin above the needed two-thirds majority. The vote was 119–56.

History reports, Mr. Speaker, that the galleries in this Chamber, the galleries which I see at this moment, the galleries were boisterous. There was applause. Women and men cried. They waived their handkerchiefs as the House of Representatives passed the 13th Amendment. It was a grand, grand event.

Mr. Speaker, in the final vote, all 86 House Republicans voted in favor of the 13th Amendment, along with 15 Democrats, 14 unconditional Unionists, and 4 Union men. The opposition came from 50 Democrats and 6 Union men.

To amend the Constitution, not only does an amendment need to pass both Houses of Congress, but it must be ratified by three-fourths of the States.

After the passage by the Senate and the House, the ratification process begins. On February 1, 1865, the very, very next day, the following day, though not required, President Lincoln signed the 13th Amendment, beginning ratification. It had to be ratified by 27 States.

Ratification is now underway. The first State, as you can image, Mr. Speaker, was Lincoln's home State of Illinois, the very next day, February 1, 1865, followed by Michigan, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Missouri, Maine, Kansas, Massachusetts, Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Nevada, Louisiana, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Vermont, Tennessee, and Arkansas.

And later that day, Arkansas, which is Mr. DAVIS' home State—I saw Mr. DAVIS walk on the floor a moment ago. Arkansas ratified the amendment on April 14, 1865.

And later that day, President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated here in Washington, D.C. But ratification continued, and they had needed six more States.

On May 4, 1865, it was Connecticut, followed by New Hampshire, followed by South Carolina, followed by Alabama and then my home State of North Carolina on December 4, 1865. And then, finally, Mr. Speaker, on December 6 of 1865, the final State of Georgia ratified the 13th Amendment.

When the State of Georgia ratified the 13th Amendment on December 6, 1865, 245 years of slavery legally ended. Four million slaves are free. The former slaves now begin a long and difficult period of reconstruction.

In 1868, the former slaves became citizens, with the 14th Amendment. They obtained the right to vote in 1870 under the 15th Amendment.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, December 6 is Abolition Day in America, and we should observe it and recognize this history. As elected Members of Congress, Black and White, Democrat and Republican, we must rededicate ourselves to the complete elimination of intentional and systemic racism in America. Mr. Speaker, this is our challenge.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS).

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the period during which slavery legally existed represents the most horrific and most sordid period in the history of the United States; therefore, I commend and thank Representative G.K. BUTTERFIELD for facilitating and anchoring this Special Order highlighting the importance and relevance and impact of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments on changing America.

Of course, we know that the 13th Amendment abolished slavery, the 14th Amendment gave Blacks and former slaves citizenship, and the 15th Amendment gave newly freed slaves the right to vote.

The period preceding, during, and after the Civil War, known as Reconstruction, is not only one of the most sordid, but the most violent and most repressive periods in our history.

The most interesting part of all of this, though, is not yesterday. The most interesting part is that there are individuals and groups in our country today who are attempting to take us back to that period, and we can never let that happen.

□ 1645

In U.S. News Today, there is an article defining how some historians, some boards of education, some school boards have attempted to rewrite and teach a history that is very different than the real history.

When you consider the number of individuals who are part of the mass incarceration system who are forced to work for nothing and whose rights are suspended, that takes us back a ways. And when you consider efforts to prevent and make it difficult or basically impossible for people to vote, that nullifies the 15th Amendment.

So you see, Brother BUTTERFIELD, when you consider the times that we are in, one would have to conclude that the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments are all under serious attack, and we must glory in the fact that we have overcome some of the obstacles, but we also must be vigilant, vigilant to the extent of never going back to that period.

We must be able to say even as a 12-year old girl said when she wrote a little poem that said: No chains on my hands, no chains on my feet, but the chains on my mind are keeping me from being free.

So I thank you again for anchoring this Special Order, and I thank you for reminding us that freedom is a hard-won thing. Each generation has to win it and win it again.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Thank you, Congressman DAVIS, for your passionate leadership. You will recall, Congressman, that 5 years ago, President Obama graced us with his presence when we celebrated the 150th anniversary of the 13th Amendment, and your eloquence this afternoon really adds to that history.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I also thank the gentleman for bringing us together on such an important moment, and of course, as he reflected on the fact that I think we were together just a few years ago in the National Archives commemorating the importance of these amendments, but also the Emancipation Proclamation.

And for those of us in Texas or in places past the Mississippi, if I might start with the question of freedom, we did not get the full impact of freedom until 1865. Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the slaves free with his pronouncement in 1863, and then it took General Granger 2 years to come and present that to those of us west of the Mississippi.

This is why I think this moment on the floor of the House, Mr. Speaker and Mr. BUTTERFIELD, is a sacred and somber moment. We can declare this a normal course of business, Mr. MFUME, that we are on the floor debating, as we usually do, but I really call this a sacred moment because it is a moment to educate the American people. It is a moment to go full circle, if you will, to all of the social justice advocacies that we have done, all of the issues that pretended to divide us.

I think the reason is that, does anyone understand the legacy of those who are descendants of enslaved Africans?

That we had to wait for an amendment to give us the fullness of a human being. We were not counted as human beings fully when the Constitution was written.

Just imagine coming from a legacy where you were not counted as one, you were counted less than one. And until this amendment, the idea of slavery of which we had been property, counted as property. So I think it is important to read the 13th Amendment: "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been fully convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction. Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

Think of that. Even indentured servants had a different status than anyone who was a descendent of enslaved Africans who came to this country in 1619 and a little bit before. That is what we discuss today. That is the issue of the 13th Amendment. And it is important to realize that the Framers never used the words slave, shareholder, master, or slavery anywhere in the Constitution. That is almost to say that we had no valid space even in a negative connotation.

So to actually realize why this is so sacred, let me give you some of history. By 1861, when the Civil War broke out, more than four million people—nearly all of them African decent—were enslaved in 15 Southern and border States. By 1862, President Abraham Lincoln came to believe firmly that emancipating enslaved people in the

South would help the Union crush the Confederate rebellion and win the Civil War. We became a practical part of saving the Union. We became the cornerstone, the descendents of enslaved Africans.

The question of slavery was not based upon the brutality of the separation of families, the beating that was suffered, the sheer brutality of it. No, it was not that. I do not find fault for that era, but people need to understand that it was not because someone bowed their heads—they were the abolitionists—and said, Oh, how sad it is that human beings are being held in bondage. We became a calculating force.

But look at the numbers. Four million enslaved. One would wonder why this is a sacred moment on the floor of the House.

So Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, which took effect in 1863, announced that all enslaved people held in the States—then in rebellion against the United States—shall be then there forward and forever free.

But the Emancipation Proclamation itself did not end slavery in the United States, as it only applied to the 11 Confederate States then at war against the Union.

Remember, we became the practical cornerstone of trying to end the war, to stop the rebellion, and to preserve the Union. I am glad the Union was preserved. I am glad we are the United States of America.

Yet it is so crucial in the understanding of even this year of 2020, even understanding the horrors of George Floyd's death, what his family still suffers, and why there was such a rage of young people and why the words "Black Lives Matter" came because of the brutality of our history, and here, in the 21st century, we are still suffering from the inequities of those that did not understand not only the question of justice, but also the question of the brutality and the history of slavery.

Maybe there would have been a better understanding if a little history was woven into where we are today. As I indicated, the Emancipation Proclamation did not do it because, as it said, it did not deal with States like Massachusetts and Ohio, to my understanding. It did not deal with those States.

In April 1864, the United States Senate passed a proposed amendment banning slavery with the necessary two-thirds majority, but it faulted in the House of Representatives as more and more Democrats refused to support it. So it was not an easy journey.

When Congress reconvened in December 1864, the emboldened Republicans put the proposed amendment up for a vote again, and Lincoln threw himself in the legislative process, something that gives leadership and substance to the idea of freeing slaves, freeing human beings.

The Constitution now is a stronger document because, as he put himself

into this, Lincoln and his allies see what is before you to focus on the most important thing that this amendment protects the slaves now born and in the United States, but also the millions yet to be born. He was committed to the passage of the 13th Amendment. He authorizes allies to entice House members with plum positions and other inducements, reportedly telling them: I leave it to you to determine how it shall be done, but remember that I am President of the United States, cloaked with immense power, and I expect you to procure the votes.

The whip is on the floor, Mr. CLYBURN. I am all the sudden elevated in my capacity as a whip because this President Lincoln was determined to have his agents on the floor use that authority to get what needed to be done. On January 31, 1865, the House of Representatives passed the proposed amendment with a vote of 119–56, with the required two-thirds majority.

Mr. Speaker, I started out by saying this is a sacred moment. I hope the people at home and our colleagues can see what slavery represented, the brutality of the back of this slave. It didn't take much to be whipped, whipped, and whipped. So scarred, so brutalized that you were almost to death. Or to see a family so like chattel, so like property, so demeaned. Families separated, babies separated. Children becoming more valuable than mom and dad; dad becoming more valuable.

And I remember reading the Slave Narratives, and they said that a woman told her slave husband to come home quick from where he was working in another plantation because they are getting ready to sell their children in one place and her in another. We need you home, she said.

Who would imagine that human beings would have collars around their necks, slavery so brutal that it was unspeakable and could not be heard?

So today, as we commemorate the 155th anniversary of this important step, realizing that it had to go through as an amendment to all of the States, what a journey it was.

I think the words of Sojourner Truth are telling, and that is why we fought to have her busts, her statue here when she was at an abolitionist meeting and someone said, Yes, sir, what do you want? And she said, Ain't I a woman? I born 13 children and I have seen most all of them sold into slavery.

That is why we are on the floor today. We are on the floor today because of the continued misunderstanding of race in this Nation.

We are on the floor today because more of us need to understand what H.R. 40 is all about. It is a magnificent piece of legislation that deals with the questions of the commission to study and develop reparation proposals. It is a reflection of the history of African Americans in this country. It is a simple process of getting a commission that dignifies what happened to us and

looks for reconciliation and restoration and proposal to deal systemically with the ongoing disasters that we see in our respective communities, from disparities in healthcare, COVID-19, housing, the criminal justice system, education. That is why we stand here today.

So I thank Mr. BUTTERFIELD for yielding, and I thank this body for understanding this is a sacred moment.

Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of this body and the Committee on the Judiciary, I am pleased to join my colleagues in this Special Order marking the anniversary of the passage on December 6, 1865 of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution and celebrating the passage of the 14th and 15th Amendments, known as the Civil Rights Amendments.

I thank my colleague, Congressman BUTTERFIELD, for anchoring this important Special Order and am remembering our late colleague, John Lewis, a great and beloved man, who risked and gave his life to make real the promise of those amendments.

The 13th Amendment, the first of the three great Civil War Amendments, was passed in 1865 and abolished slavery.

The 14th Amendment conferred citizenship on the newly emancipated slaves, and the 1st Amendment prohibited abridging the right to vote on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

Taken together, these amendments were intended and have the effect of making former slaves, and their descendants, full and equal members of the political community known as the United States of America.

By 1861, when the Civil War broke out, more than 4 million people (nearly all of them of African descent) were enslaved in 15 southern and border states.

By 1862, President Abraham Lincoln came to believe firmly that emancipating enslaved people in the South would help the Union crush the Confederate rebellion and win the Civil War.

Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, which took effect in 1863, announced that all enslaved people held in the states "then in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free."

But the Emancipation Proclamation itself did not end slavery in the United States, as it only applied to the 11 Confederate states then at war against the Union, and only to the portion of those states not already under Union control.

To make emancipation permanent would take a constitutional amendment abolishing the institution of slavery itself.

In April 1864, the U.S. Senate passed a proposed amendment banning slavery with the necessary two-thirds majority but it faltered in the House of Representatives, as more and more Democrats refused to support it.

When Congress reconvened in December 1864, the emboldened Republicans put the proposed amendment up for vote again and Lincoln threw himself in the legislative process, inviting individual representatives to his office to discuss the amendment and putting pressure on border-state Unionists (who had previously opposed it) to change their position.

Lincoln was committed to the passage of the 13th Amendment, telling his allies to "see what is before you, to focus on the most im-

portant thing; that this Amendment protects the slaves now born and in the United States, but settles the question for all time for the millions yet to be born."

He authorized his allies to entice House members with plum positions and other inducements, reportedly telling them: "I leave it to you to determine how it shall be done; but remember that I am President of the United States, clothed with immense power, and I expect you to procure those votes."

On January 31, 1865, the House of Representatives passed the proposed amendment with a vote of 119–56, just over the required two-thirds majority, and the following day, Lincoln approved a joint resolution of Congress submitting it to the state legislatures for ratification.

Mr. Speaker, the United States is the world's only superpower and boasts the largest economy in the history of the world and for many years was the world's indispensable nation and the example that all aspiring democracies wished to emulate.

But at the same time, this nation has also been home to many searing instances of social unrest resulting from racial injustices, as we witnessed this year on the streets of big cities and small towns in urban and rural communities.

We saw Americans, by the millions across the country, coming from all races and ages, engaging in what the late John Lewis called "good trouble" by protesting and demanding an end to the systemic racial inequality in our criminal justice system that too often victimizes and disproportionately treats black Americans worse, *ceteris paribus*, when it comes to suspicion, apprehension, arrest, detention, trial, sentencing, and incarceration.

While the brutal deaths of George Floyd in Minneapolis and Breanna Taylor in Louisville shocked the conscience of the nation, most black Americans will tell you what they experienced is not new, but has been occurring for generations, if not centuries.

What is critically important to understand is that the instances of brutal and unfair treatment the nation has witnessed this year cannot be attributed to the proverbial few "bad apples in the bushel" but is instead the foreseeable consequence of systemic racism and racial inequality in the system.

Not just the criminal justice system, but the health care system, the economic system, and the educational system to name the most glaring examples.

To find our way out of this dark time, we need to understand how it came to be.

That is why in January 2019, I introduced H.R. 40, which establishes a commission to examine slavery and discrimination in the colonies and the United States from 1619 to the present and recommend appropriate remedies.

Among other requirements, the commission shall identify (1) the role of federal and state governments in supporting the institution of slavery; (2) forms of discrimination in the public and private sectors against freed slaves and their descendants; and (3) lingering negative effects of slavery on living African-Americans and society.

Official slavery ended with the Civil War and ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment.

But unofficial slavery was continued with the new institution of sharecrop farming, a criminal justice system that would press convicts into

work once done by slaves, and labor policies that dictated income for work done based upon skin color.

And, of course, all of this was reinforced by the systematic disenfranchisement of black Americans, the "discrete and insular minority" excluded from "those political processes ordinarily to be relied upon to protect" them, to quote Chief Justice Hughes' famous *Carolene Products* Footnote 4.

For these reasons, the history of the United States is intertwined with the history of enslaved Africans in the Americas.

There is blood and there are tears, but there is also redemption and reconciliation.

But to get there, we must have the complete truth and lay our history bare.

It is the light that sheds the way to the more perfect union all Americans want.

The Commission created and empowered by H.R. 40 is a necessary first step in that effort to get to truth and reconciliation about the Original Sin of American Slavery that is necessary to light the way to the beloved community we all seek.

Finally, I join all my colleagues in pointing out that the most fitting and proper means of paying tribute to the beloved John Lewis's extraordinary life is for the Senate to immediately take up and pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, landmark legislation to protect the precious right to vote for all persons and to ensure that our democracy has the tools needed to remain strong.

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Taken together, these amendments were intended and have the effect of making former slaves, and their descendants, full and equal members of the political community known as the United States of America.

Section 2 of the 14th Amendment is noteworthy because it did two important things.

First, it repealed Article I, Section 2, which counted slaves as 3/5 of a person for purposes of taxation and apportionment of seats in the House of Representatives.

Second, it punished states that denied the right to vote to any male citizen over the age of 21 (who was neither a felon nor had fought on the side of the Confederacy during the Civil War) by reducing their population for purposes of representation in Congress.

The Framers knew then, and everyone knows now, that the male citizens over the age of 21 who were being denied the right to vote were the former slaves.

The Framers of the 14th Amendment also knew which states were denying these citizens the right to vote.

The Framers could have identified those states by name but elected not to do so.

They chose not to do so because that would have required them to despoil the sanctity and revolutionary character of the Constitution by having to acknowledge explicitly that slavery had existed legally in a country founded on the “self-evident truth” that “all men are created equal.”

It is for this reason that the Framers never used the words “slave,” “slaveholder,” “master,” or “slavery” anywhere in the original Constitution.

The single reference in the Amendments is the declaration in the 13th Amendment that “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.”

The reason this is important is because it shows that when it comes to matters of race and politics in America, the Framers and Congress have always been masters of writing in code so as not to bruise the feelings or upset the tender sensibilities of their fellow citizens in the Southern states.

The Framers and Congress were practiced in the art of expressing their true views and achieving their objectives without enshrining in the Constitution or laws the fact that certain of their countrymen trafficked in racism.

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ducements, reportedly telling them: “I leave it to you to determine how it shall be done; but remember that I am President of the United States, clothed with immense power, and I expect you to procure those votes.”

On January 31, 1865, the House of Representatives passed the proposed amendment with a vote of 119–56, just over the required two-thirds majority, and the following day, Lincoln approved a joint resolution of Congress submitting it to the state legislatures for ratification.

Mr. Speaker, let me recite the opening sentence of Section 1 of the 14th Amendment: “All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside.”

This text was and is a clear repudiation of the infamous Supreme Court’s 1857 decision in *Dred Scott*, in which Chief Justice Roger Taney wrote that a black man, was so inferior to the white man that he had no rights the white man was bound to respect, and could never, even if born free, claim rights of citizenship under the federal constitution.

The next clause in Section 1 states: “No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States.”

This greatly expanded the civil and legal rights of all American citizens by protecting them from infringement by the states as well as by the federal government.

The third clause, “nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty or property, without due process of law,” expanded the due process clause of the Fifth Amendment to apply to the states as well as the federal government.

Over time, this clause has been interpreted to guarantee a wide array of rights against infringement by the states, including those enumerated in the Bill of Rights (freedom of speech, free exercise of religion, right to bear arms, etc.) as well as the right to privacy and other fundamental rights not mentioned elsewhere in the Constitution.

Finally, the “equal protection clause” (“nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws”) was clearly intended to stop state governments from discriminating against black Americans, and over the years would play a key role in many landmark civil rights cases.

It should be noted also, Mr. Speaker, that Section 2 of the 14th Amendment authorized the federal government to punish states that violated or abridged their citizens’ right to vote by proportionally reducing the states’ representation in Congress, and mandated that anyone who “engaged in insurrection” against the United States could not hold civil, military, or elected office (without the approval of two-thirds of the House and Senate).

And Section 5 of the 14th Amendment gave Congress “the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.”

In giving Congress power to pass laws to safeguard the sweeping provisions of Section 1, in particular, the 14th Amendment effectively altered the balance of power between the federal and state governments in the United States.

Nearly a century later, Congress would use this authority to pass landmark civil rights legislation, including the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The 15th Amendment granting African-American men the right to vote was adopted into the U.S. Constitution in 1870.

The 15th Amendment states: “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.”

Despite the amendment, by the late 1870s discriminatory practices were used to prevent blacks from exercising their right to vote, especially in the South.

It wasn’t until the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that legal barriers were outlawed at the state and local levels if they denied African-Americans their right to vote under the 15th Amendment.

Mr. Speaker, the United States is the world’s only superpower and boasts the largest economy in the history of the world and for many years was the world’s indispensable nation and the example that all aspiring democracies wished to emulate.

But at the same time, this nation has also been home to many searing instances of social unrest resulting from racial injustices, as we witnessed this year on the streets of big cities and small towns in urban and rural communities.

We saw Americans, by the millions across the country, coming from all races and ages, engaging in what the late John Lewis called “good trouble” by protesting and demanding an end to the systemic racial inequality in our criminal justice system that too often victimizes and disproportionately treats black Americans worse, *ceteris paribus*, when it comes to suspicion, apprehension, arrest, detention, trial, sentencing, and incarceration.

While the brutal deaths of George Floyd in Minneapolis and Breanna Taylor in Louisville shocked the conscience of the nation, most black Americans will tell you what they experienced is not new, but has been occurring for generations, if not centuries.

What is critically important to understand is that the instances of brutal and unfair treatment the nation has witnessed this year cannot be attributed to the proverbial few “bad apples in the bushel” but is instead the foreseeable consequence of systemic racism and racial inequality in the system.

Not just the criminal justice system, but the health care system, the economic system, and the educational system to name the most glaring examples.

To find our way out of this dark time, we need to understand how it came to be.

That is why in January 2019, I introduced H.R. 40, which establishes a commission to examine slavery and discrimination in the colonies and the United States from 1619 to the present and recommend appropriate remedies.

Among other requirements, the commission shall identify (1) the role of federal and state governments in supporting the institution of slavery; (2) forms of discrimination in the public and private sectors against freed slaves and their descendants; and (3) lingering negative effects of slavery on living African-Americans and society.

Official slavery ended with the Civil War and ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment.

But unofficial slavery was continued with the new institution of sharecrop farming, a criminal justice system that would press convicts into work once done by slaves, and labor policies

that dictated income for work done based upon skin color.

And, of course, all of this was reinforced by the systematic disenfranchisement of black Americans, the “discrete and insular minority” excluded from “those political processes ordinarily to be relied upon to protect” them, to quote Chief Justice Hughes’ famous *Carolene Products* Footnote 4.

For these reasons, the history of the United States is intertwined with the history of enslaved Africans in the Americas.

There is blood and there are tears, but there is also redemption and reconciliation.

But to get there, we must have the complete truth and lay our history bare.

It is the light that sheds the way to the more perfect union all Americans want.

The Commission created and empowered by H.R. 40 is a necessary first step in that effort to get to truth and reconciliation about the Original Sin of American Slavery that is necessary to light the way to the beloved community we all seek.

Finally, I join all my colleagues in pointing out that the most fitting and proper means of paying tribute to the beloved John Lewis’s extraordinary life is for the Senate to immediately take up and pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, landmark legislation to protect the precious right to vote for all persons and to ensure that our democracy has the tools needed to remain strong.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congresswoman for delineating the important difference between the Emancipation Proclamation and the 13th Amendment. The Proclamation was a heroic action of President Lincoln; the 13th amendment was a historic action of this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN), the Democratic whip of the House.

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman BUTTERFIELD for yielding to me to talk on this very momentous occasion. I thank him for bringing attention to this issue, the 155th anniversary of the ratification of the 13th Amendment.

Now, having not listened to all of the discussion before, and I hope I am not too repetitive here, but I want to bring to the attention of all here this evening and our listeners two conflicting events.

□ 1700

Now, we often hear talk of the Emancipation Proclamation. The fact of the matter is, there were two Emancipation Proclamations, the first one freeing the formerly enslaved living in the District of Columbia, and that became effective upon its signing in 1862.

The second one, also written in 1862 and signed by President Abraham Lincoln, was to become effective January 1, 1863, and that was to free the other enslaved people in the former slave States, which meant that in those States that did not have officially sanctioned slavery but did have slaves, in order for them to be free and in order for the descendants of those from the District of Columbia and those affected by those two proclamations, we

needed a constitutional amendment, because as we know, executive orders could very well change with the next executive.

So Abraham Lincoln set out to lay the groundwork for the Thirteenth Amendment, and so we are here celebrating the 155th anniversary of that.

But we also this week will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of another momentous event. 150 years ago come Saturday, we will commemorate the swearing in to this august body the first African American to serve in the United States Congress, Joseph H. Rainey.

Joseph Rainey was from Georgetown, South Carolina, and early in his life moved to Charleston. He worked as a barber. His father was a barber, and he took up the barbering trade, and made enough money as a barber to purchase his and his family’s freedom.

Now, the interesting thing about this is that I often talk about the French historian Alexis de Tocqueville, who came to this country in the 1830s to study our penal system, but while here, he saw what he considered to be a certain magic about this country. Back around 1836, he wrote a book, a two-volume book, called “*Democracy in America*.”

Now, de Tocqueville, in trying to figure out what it was that he considered to be magical about this country, wrote in those books this little phrase:

America is not great because it is more enlightened than any other nation . . .

Just think about that, not more enlightened than any other nation, because we had slavery. This was the 1830s. That was not an enlightened institution.

But, he said:

. . . rather, because it has always been able to repair its faults.

Just think about that. De Tocqueville said that this country is great because it is able to repair its faults, writing that at a time when we had slavery in this country in the 1830s. It was some 30 years later when slavery was abolished.

Now, the thing that I like to point out is the fact that we talk about all of these things that happened during Reconstruction, and most times the things we are talking about did not happen during Reconstruction, they happened after Reconstruction.

Reconstruction was ushered in by the freeing of slaves in 1863. It came to an end in 1877 when Rutherford B. Hayes removed all of the Federal oversight and this country lapsed into a period that we call the Jim Crow era starting around 1877 and lasting all the way up to *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954.

Now, I wanted to point that out tonight as we celebrate these milestones in our history, the 155th anniversary of the Thirteenth Amendment and we will be celebrating this week the 150th anniversary of the first African American to come to this august body. But I want to point out something interesting about that.

The last African American to serve in that century, to serve in this body, left Congress in 1897, George Washington Murray, the last from South Carolina.

Now, I know G.K. BUTTERFIELD will get up and tell you about 1901, when Mr. White left the Congress and left with that great speech, *Like the Phoenix*, but in South Carolina, the first State to give an African American to this body, the last one, George Washington Murray, left in 1897, and there was not another person of color to represent South Carolina until I got elected in 1992, 95 years later.

Why? Because of something called voter suppression.

I think that a lot of these former slave States have gone back into history and ripped out the textbooks, and we are seeing voter suppression being practiced today much like it was practiced back in the 19th century when they successfully removed all people of color from elective office.

So I want to thank G.K. BUTTERFIELD for bringing attention to this today. It gives us an opportunity to ask the people of the country to really think about this period of time and think about what we are experiencing today.

Think about what is going on in the State of Georgia today, when we see interposition and nullification falling from the lips of the President of the United States in trying to overturn an election, much like they did that ran all Blacks out of Congress and much as they did that took Blacks out of elective office, took Blacks out of schools to be educated, all those things, and made it illegal for people of color to even get an education.

I would hope that during this period of time, the people of this country will think a little bit about what is going on around us and just remember there is precedence for what the President of the United States is doing today.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. CLYBURN very much for his comments tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I would inquire how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) has 12 minutes remaining.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I have 12 minutes remaining and I have four speakers. I will try to divide it up 3 minutes each.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) for allowing me to share in this commemoration.

I rise to commemorate the 155th anniversary of the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution.

155 years ago, slavery was abolished in the United States after Georgia’s State legislature ratified the Thirteenth Amendment, pushing it over the

three-fourths requirement. This was a monumental step for civil rights in America, the first of three constitutional amendments during the Reconstruction period that sought equality for the former slaves and their descendants, Black Americans.

Unfortunately, we know that these amendments did not achieve equality, and in fact outraged many of the former slaveholders.

Slavery was the backbone of the southern economy and way of life. Systems like that do not disappear overnight.

After slavery was abolished, sharecropping came in its place; in theory, free and fair, but in practice, anything but.

The Ku Klux Klan was organized by former Confederate officers to violently keep Black people in their places.

The exception written into the Thirteenth Amendment that allowed involuntary servitude as a punishment upon conviction of a crime gave rise to what was known as the chain gang: free prison labor, which still exists in many places today.

Although the Thirteenth Amendment passed, southern legislatures enacted Black Codes and Jim Crow laws, legislation that technically abided by the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments, but still allowed discrimination against Black Americans, maintaining white supremacy and still giving White Americans preferential treatment.

This persisted up through the second half of the 20th century and persisted until the blood, sweat, and tears of the civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s. John Lewis, JIM CLYBURN, BENNIE THOMPSON, Hosea Williams, Joe Lowery, Medgar Evers put their lives on the line to stand up for the humanity of Black Americans.

We often hear that slavery has been over for a long time, 155 years. It may be long for an individual, but not for a nation. But we should make clear and make no mistake about it that the legacy of slavery still haunts America and it still handicaps our ability to realize the noble principles that this country stands for, that all men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, keeping in mind that we have made a lot of progress, but we are not where we need to go. There is still much work to do.

Mr. Speaker, I challenge my colleagues in this body to keep in mind and ask themselves a question: What are we doing today to make America a more perfect union for the next 155 years?

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Financial Services.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague, the gen-

tleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD), for yielding, and I commend him for organizing this Special Order on the 155th anniversary of the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and the important relationship between the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments.

Since our founding, the United States has been engaged in a constant struggle to realize the full promise and potential of our founding principles, most especially the right for all people, regardless of race, color, or gender, to vote and participate in our democracy.

Mr. Speaker, despite the fact it has been more than 150 years from the passage of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments, I was absolutely horrified by the level of voter suppression that took place in the last election.

The President and some Members of this body falsely claim that there was voting fraud, while courts have dismissed 43 cases the President's legal team has brought.

What is underappreciated and not discussed is the lengths the President and Republicans and States across the country went to to stop minorities from voting: fake vote-by-mail boxes, racist robocalls encouraging Blacks not to vote by mail, and the President's absolute sabotage of the United States Postal Service to stop people from voting.

Mr. Speaker, the next Congress and the new administration must come together to strengthen voting rights next year. We cannot wait.

□ 1715

Those who fought and died for the right to vote must be remembered, and we honor their work by ensuring future generations have the right to vote.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. How much time remains, Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from North Carolina has 6 minutes remaining.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH).

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from North Carolina, Representative BUTTERFIELD, for yielding.

Yesterday, we observed the anniversary of the ratification of the 13th Amendment, which provided that "neither slavery nor involuntary servitude . . . shall exist within the United States."

It was one of the most dramatic expansions of civil rights in American history, and for the first time, our Constitution made mention of the institution of slavery.

155 years ago, the self-evident truth that all men are created equal had not been fully realized. But with every generation, with every chapter written in America's story, the people of this Nation have fought to secure the unalienable rights which were endowed by our Creator.

As we enter a new era, we must not forget that we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us, giants like John Lewis, Elijah Cummings, and C.T. Vivian who helped pave the way for millions of little boys and little girls who believed that they could do anything that they set their minds to, that they could become whomever they wanted to be.

155 years after slavery, we reflect on how far this Nation has truly come. There are many who lived a century ago who would not believe that America today would welcome the great-grandchildren of slaves to serve their communities and their country and our government.

We commemorate that long march toward justice and celebrate all who have played a role in making the lives of their children better than their own.

Today, and every day, we must continue the work of all those whose shoulders we now stand upon. We must continue to strive toward that more perfect Union, toward a future free from hatred, bigotry, and violence.

The work we do in this Chamber can advance the cause for freedom, justice, and peace. Each and every day, I pray that we continue to rise to meet that moment.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her very powerful words.

At this time, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. MFUME).

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina for convening us to commemorate this 155th anniversary of the ratification of our 13th Amendment.

It is difficult sometimes for many of us to look back at history because it was so painful, but it is important so that we understand where we are and how we got here.

The enslavement of the Negro, the extermination of the Indian, the annexation of the Hispanic made, in many respects, the birth of our Republic an iniquitous conception. It was conceived under the concept that White men were superior to Black men and, therefore, entitled to oppress them, harass them, and, if necessary, destroy them.

We all talk about, as has been mentioned here today, the words of the Declaration of Independence and how this is a nation that believes that all men and women are created equal and that we are endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among those shall be life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

But the great historian John Hope Franklin reminded us that, many years after those words were written, we still existed in a society where slavery was the order of the day. In fact, it was the great historian John Hope Franklin who referred to it as the great evil institution of American servitude.

It would be the 13th Amendment that would, to a large extent, end that and give us what we are celebrating here today.

But even after Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, it was still several years before we got to the 13th Amendment, which ended slavery; the 14th Amendment, which guaranteed citizenship and due process; and then the 15th Amendment, which gave us and ratified for us the right to vote.

I think that, without a doubt, when we look back on all that has happened, particularly considering how we got here, that this commemoration is important. It is overdue. It ought to be an annual celebration.

I, again, thank the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina for convening us.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from North Carolina has expired.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 155th anniversary of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America. Passed by the House of Representatives on January 31, 1865, the 13th Amendment was ratified and put into effect on December 6, 1865.

Section 1 of the 13th Amendment states, "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

This amendment is what allows Black people the legal status to be free, unbound, and unchained here in our country. If this amendment were not in place, we would still be slaves and subject to the forced subjugation of others. Before the ratification of this amendment, Black people in the U.S. were enslaved and owned by other people. Now, we are owned by no one.

This legacy in the U.S., this original sin, is recognized as an abomination to mankind. As I travel throughout the world, I am reminded of the greatness of our nation, but I am also intensely aware of the faults, shortcomings, and injustices that still plague us today. It is a sad reflection on our society that we are still fighting for complete and pure freedom in our country, to share in the fundamental rights guaranteed by our constitution to every person.

It is without question that we love this country and for most people, know no other place to call home. We have struggled, fought, and even died along the path to freedom. Our very existence has been met with severe hardships. No one today can imagine the horrors that slaves were subjected to daily.

However, there are those who, even today, say that slavery for Black people was a good thing and a blessing in disguise. This errant view is void of reality and ridiculous on its face.

The evils of slavery are too many to comprehensively and adequately express. There are thousands of helpless people who were bound, shackled, whipped, quartered, hung, burned and endured unspeakable horrors whose stories will never be told.

The lasting effects of slavery permeate many aspects of society today. Institutionalized racism, discrimination and prejudices are each lasting remnants of our history and are present with us even now. Our challenge is to continue to fight to wipe out these insidious vestiges of a time long passed and a gruesome period of every day American life.

Our nation will be forever stained with the blood of slavery. Our nation will be forever blessed by the freedom and liberty that the ratification of the 13th Amendment brings. Let us continue the never ending fight for freedom as we move towards prosperity for everyone.

While the 13th Amendment legally ended slavery in the United States, we know that for many it did not end in 1865. Thousands of Black people were either uninformed of their liberty or just outright denied their rights to be free. They were forced into continued servitude and grueling work to support the needs of their owners and masters. In Texas, word of freedom and liberation from the slave owners and masters of plantations and farms did not reach Black people until a whole two years later.

Slavery in the United States was not just a way of life, but an oppressive institution that was designed to profit off of the free labor of Black folk. It was extremely prosperous. It is without question that our nation was built on the backs of Black people who continuously suffered the indignities, degradation and humiliation of being enslaved.

We cannot afford to rest, sleep or be caught off guard. Even though the 13th Amendment is in place, it does not mean that it cannot be changed. All we truly have to do is look at the last administration and its constant attacks on the freedom of people in the U.S. and its attacks on our democratic institutions. Our freedom must be protected.

Please allow me to briefly turn my attention to the relationship between the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments. The 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, proposed after the Civil War, granted enslaved Black people freedom, citizenship, and the right to vote. The 15th Amendment declared that the right of U.S. citizens to vote could "not be abridged or denied" by any state "on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude." These rights are still being attacked by those who would deny all people of color freedom, citizenship and the fundamental right to vote. The third and final Amendment during the Reconstruction Era—was adopted to protect the freedoms outlined in the 13th and 14th Amendments. Make no mistake—Reconstruction for Black people was devastating and a gross erosion of rights that were supposed to be guaranteed.

Mr. Speaker, our country is no longer divided between free states and slave states. We are now one. While we take this time to recognize and celebrate this critical benchmark in the history of our country, we must continue to fight to be the land of the free.

MARKING RATIFICATION OF 13TH AMENDMENT

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I thank all the speakers this evening. I understand the time has been precious, and I thank all of them for their patience and willingness to participate.

The 13th Amendment reads as follows: "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude . . . shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

This amendment was added to the United States Constitution by an act of

Congress on January 31, 1865, ratified by the requisite number of States on December 6, 1865, 155 years ago.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GREG WALDEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) for 30 minutes.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, this 30 minutes is a tribute to our leader who is leaving us, GREG WALDEN, the top Republican on the Energy and Commerce Committee and the former chairman, and, obviously, a good friend to everyone on both sides of the aisle.

Knowing that many Members have plenty of meetings that are starting, I am going to yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON).

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend and my colleague, Congressman GREG WALDEN, on his retirement, following more than 20 years representing Oregon's Second District here in Congress.

As a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Chairman WALDEN has been a real mentor to me. I have seen firsthand Chairman WALDEN's love for his country, dedication to his district, and hard work on so many important priorities for our Nation, like healthcare, energy independence, and telecommunications.

I have so many fond memories of the work we have done together and the time we have spent. I especially enjoyed working with Chairman WALDEN on H.R. 6, landmark legislation to combat the opioid crisis.

Chairman WALDEN, you will be dearly missed, but I wish you, Mylene, Anthony, and your entire family all the best.

I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking Congressman GREG WALDEN for his extraordinary service.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON), also a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I, too, rise today to pay tribute to my good friend and mentor on the Energy and Commerce Committee, GREG WALDEN.

I spent 27 years in the United States Air Force. We lived by a code of conduct every day. We came to work. We embodied those core values of integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all that we do.

In my experience, it is not often that you find people in private life or in other sectors of public life who also embody those same core values, but Chairman GREG WALDEN does.

Whether he was fighting for healthcare changes for the American people, to make America more energy independent and secure, whether he was trying to make sure that Big Tech did not overrun the American people,

you could always count on GREG WALDEN to be out in front leading, not following, and, certainly, not leading from behind.

I learned a lot in the 6 years that I served with GREG WALDEN when he was on the Energy and Commerce Committee as the chairman, and even before that as chair of our National Republican Congressional Committee.

It is with a great deal of sadness that we see him leave because a lot of core institutional knowledge is going to go out the door. But I want to say how much I have admired working with GREG WALDEN.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), a colleague.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I have been honored to know and work around GREG WALDEN for 40 years. It is kind of scary to think about that.

He came to public service honestly.

I was privileged to serve with his father in the Oregon State Legislature when GREG started as a staff member in the State senate. He was bright, capable, and committed to the people of the Second Congressional District, a special place in Oregon, and GREG was quick to always represent it forcefully, clearly, and effectively.

We have shared some highlights over the years. I remember floating in the Dead Sea early in our congressional career. I was able to work with him in a small way on something that he is very proud of, the Steens Mountain Wilderness, almost 100,000 acres of cow-free wilderness. Now, some of us would have done it a little differently, but knowing where GREG came from in his district, that was a signal accomplishment. And we were able to work together in the Clinton administration.

I was pleased to have one of the best field hearings I ever had in public service as GREG and I, and his wife, Mylene, and his son, Anthony, and our staff members did a 43-mile, 3-day hike around Mount Hood, that magnificent mountain that we share in our districts.

We were able to meet with various interest groups and work together to lay the foundation for significant wilderness legislation that was signed into law by President Obama but that we worked together on a bipartisan basis to make possible.

Recently, we were able to work on legislation that almost nobody paid any attention to. It dealt with a significant change to enhance the ability of physicians, particularly in emergency rooms, to know the family history of people there who suffered from opioid addiction.

Again, not many people know about it, and it was several years and harder than I thought, but it will make a difference to be able to make sure that those emergency room personnel will be able to treat the whole person. It solved a problem that maybe shouldn't have been, but it is part of that nagging problem that we have, in terms of

trying to work through the legislative process. And GREG was a master at that.

I didn't always agree with GREG. Occasionally, we had some differences. But we often were able to find common ground to represent the people of our State in a way that they wanted us to.

□ 1730

It is an honor. I will say, even though we didn't always agree, I always respected GREG in terms of his commitment, his intellect, and his sense of humor.

It has been an honor, GREG, to serve with you 22 years—really?

You have escaped, and I can't wait to find out what the next chapters in your career bring.

I wish the very best to you, Mylene, and Anthony, and a long and prosperous next step.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK).

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

Mr. Speaker, I speak on the House floor tonight, not as somebody who has ever served on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, but as someone who was a freshman in the 115th Congress with a very, very specific and very direct link to a piece of legislation we were advocating known as the right-to-try bill.

When I got sworn in, one of the first people I sought out was Chairman GREG WALDEN. I went to his office, and I was initially taken aback by the photography he had throughout his office of his district, which is an incredibly beautiful district in Oregon.

We have all had many meetings in our time in Congress here, but one of my memories is, when I met with Chairman WALDEN, I have to acknowledge I was very intimidated. I was a freshman Member speaking to a committee chairperson of a very, very significant committee.

The time, the attention, and the respect that he showed me and the issue that I cared about I will never forget. It is one of those memories that I have of my freshman term that I will never forget.

We have all heard many definitions of character being spoken throughout our lives. My favorite definition is character being defined as the things that we do and the decisions that we make when nobody else is watching.

Having worked with Chairman WALDEN on the right-to-try bill, his honesty, his integrity, and his commitment to doing the right thing—not the politically popular thing, not what any interest group was advocating for, but trying to get the specifics and the details of a piece of very important legislation right—was very, very instructive to me. It was probably the greatest experience and the greatest learning experience I had as a freshman Member of Congress.

For GREG to walk away having accomplished all that he has on his own

is reminiscent of my favorite President, George Washington. Everybody wanted him to continue serving, and all he wanted to do was go back home to his farm in Mount Vernon, live under the laws he helped pass, and make way for a new generation of leadership, which is one of the reasons he is so revered throughout history.

Likewise, we ought to respect Chairman WALDEN, our friend, GREG, for doing the same thing: for understanding the important things in life, for valuing his family the way he does, knowing that as much as he enjoys this job and how humbled he is to serve in the capacity he has, he is going back home to his family because they are the most important things to him.

So, Chairman WALDEN, Godspeed to you. We love you. Thank you for all you have done, not just for this Chamber, but for the United States.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from the State of Washington (Mrs. RODGERS), the GREG WALDEN successor as the top Republican on the powerful Energy and Commerce Committee and, as we like to say, chairman-in-waiting in the next aisle.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. To the former chairman, I will say thank you. Thank you for bringing us together tonight. It is a real honor for me to join in recognizing the life and the service of GREG WALDEN here in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure of considering him a friend and a colleague. He is also my neighbor to the south in Oregon. Both of us have deep roots in the Pacific Northwest, although he will be quick to remind me that his family came out a few years ahead of mine. I think it was 1845. We didn't get there until 1853, I think. Anyway, he is always excelling.

I was thinking he probably has the most frequent flier points today, now, because there is no one who has worked harder and traveled back and forth across this country in representing the people of Oregon all these years.

I want to join in just celebrating a tremendous leader. He was chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. He led that committee in a way that just reflects what a great history this committee has. It is always focused on results and always focused on solving the problems of bringing people together to get big things done.

I just appreciate the vision and the foundation that you have led during your time on the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

There is a long list of successes and accomplishments here: leading on combating the opioid crisis—a huge package of bills—and building a 21st century economy.

This committee is at the heart of America's competitiveness and our future, such as expanding rural broadband.

I appreciate all your leadership there. Our districts are very similar,

eastern Washington and eastern Oregon. You worked to make sure that no one is left behind.

Recognizing and reauthorizing the Children's Health Insurance Program, lowering prescription drugs and the prices of prescription drugs, and unleashing innovation in energy and healthcare is a part of a long list, and because of your leadership at the Energy and Commerce Committee, people's lives have been improved. People have been lifted out of poverty, and we have raised the standard of living even more.

I appreciate the way that he leads, Mr. Speaker, and the joy that he brings to every assignment. This is somebody who has held a lot of different titles while serving in the House of Representatives. I have been around him many times through the years. He is a strong advocate.

I remember, early on, being down at the White House, when I was first elected, with George W. Bush, and GREG WALDEN was there. But he didn't miss an opportunity to put in a good word about the need for better forest management and combating the catastrophic wildfires. He was always, always on, and always advocating for the people of eastern Oregon.

This is one that we are going to miss. He is just the ultimate legislator. He is the one who has come, worked hard, made a difference for the people of eastern Oregon, and leaves a high standard for the rest of us in his commitment, his hard work, and his record of results.

So no matter where life takes you next, I know it is going to be something good. I wish you, Mylene, and Anthony all the best in this next chapter. It is well earned and well deserved.

God bless you, and the best is yet to come.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Michigan (Mr. WALBERG), who is another member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I was in my office just finishing up a meeting when I saw this going on down here, and I knew I had to come because Chairman WALDEN—

You don't mind if I call you chairman still?

I don't know if that violates any House policy, Mr. Speaker.

You will always be my chairman.

You were my first chairman as I came on the Energy and Commerce Committee, a committee that I wanted to be on for an awful long time. Representative UPTON and I talked about that for quite some time. He assured me that that was the key committee to be on. I knew that for a fact, and I have not been disappointed.

One of the quotes that means most to me is the quote that is above the Speaker's rostrum. It is a quote from Daniel Webster, who said:

Let us develop the resources of our land, call forth its powers, build up its

institutions, promote all its great interests, and see whether we also, in our day and generation, may not perform something worthy to be remembered.

It is a powerful quote, and we all aspire to that, but a few actually achieve that.

Chairman WALDEN, I want to say that, through the Speaker to you, I believe you have achieved that purpose in doing something here that will be remembered, if not in all of the policy issues and the legislative issues you fronted and pushed for, you will leave that in the lives of Members who have served with you on your committee and under your leadership.

I will never forget a 27-hour markup and a debate that went on after the pattern that ought to be here in the House of Representatives. I remember the firmness with which you led that committee markup, the passion that you displayed on the issues, the agreements and disagreements that you had and you let in. But you treated us all on that committee with respect worthy of this institution, and you treated each Member with a purpose that said to all of us: You are important, and your ideas should be considered.

I know for a fact I have served under chairmen and Speakers over the course of my tenure in State and in national politics who have led, but only a few have led in such a way as you, that the people you led felt that you really meant it, that you wanted their best whether you agreed or disagreed with us, and you made us better for the calling and for the purpose.

So I want to say to you, Mr. Chairman, thank you for your service. I wish you well, your family, and in all of your endeavors. You can count on it that I will pray prayers of thanks for you and blessings on your life.

All the best.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I know other Members may be on the way over.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks as part of this Special Order for Mr. WALDEN.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. UPTON. So, Mr. Speaker, this is a farewell for GREG WALDEN.

He started off in public service serving as the youngest State house majority leader in Oregon's history before he was elected to the U.S. House for Oregon's Second District.

He came to the Energy and Commerce Committee in 2001, and, of course, I referenced the Energy and Commerce Committee a little bit earlier as the greatest committee, and that is because I simply took the words of John Dingell, our former chairman, who agrees with me, I know, but as he would say, our committee's jurisdiction is really just two words: the world.

We have jurisdiction over energy, the environment, healthcare, telecommunications, trade, manufacturing, and then some, and, of course, that very important issue called oversight and investigations.

GREG chaired the Telecommunications Subcommittee from 2010 until 2016. He jumped up over others in seniority because of his knowledge on that issue and his passion, whether it be broadband or digital broadcasting, anything involving the telecommunication industry. He became chairman of the full committee in 2017, and, obviously, the top Republican now, as Republicans no longer serve in the majority.

As you look back at his career, Mr. Speaker, and you look at some of these landmark issues—CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS indicated a couple—but CHIP, children's healthcare, so important for all of our States. He was a leader on that.

For the first time ever, we actually passed something with a 10-year authorization bill called the community health centers authorization.

Opioids were a big issue 3, 4 years ago. It still is today, but literally every member of our committee had a piece of that bill. I want to say maybe more than 100 different separate bills were fashioned together as one. President Trump signed it into law, and it made a meaningful difference for so many people as they struggle with this addiction across the country.

I couldn't forget this one bill, and I had to write the title down, the Repack Airwaves Yielding Better Access for Users of Modern Servers. I think I got that right. If you take the first letter of every word, that spells RAY BAUM.

Ray Baum was our staff director of the committee for a couple years until a terrible brain cancer took his life. This bill was named in honor of Ray.

I will tell you, 911 calls wouldn't work today without this, because this provided the location, when that call is made, to make sure that the first responder, in fact, is going to get to that delivery site. So it is very important legislation, and Ray was just an awesome leader on our committee.

But I see other Members have joined us now.

May I ask, Mr. Speaker, how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan has 8 minutes remaining.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY), who is a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Michigan. I can tell you a couple minutes is enough time because I am a brief speaker, but it says a lot that I am willing to come down here and risk COVID to speak in favor of a Republican. So there you have it.

I have known GREG WALDEN for many years now in the committee. On trips

and on new legislation, he has been a gentleman, and he has been a person I could work with.

We have some disagreements, don't we, GREG?

But that says a lot that we can disagree and still be friends.

I went to Oregon to visit and to see the eclipse, and GREG invited me to go to his place with his friends and watch it with them. I really appreciated that. So it shows you that people can get along in this institution, work together, and have respect for each other.

□ 1745

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS), a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my dear friend from Michigan for organizing this really important Special Order.

I have to say, many of you probably heard the phrase, a politician thinks about the next election, but it is a statesman who thinks about the next generation.

GREG WALDEN of Oregon is both. He is an amazing politician, but he is an even more important statesman for our next generation.

Representative WALDEN has been a mentor to many. When he was chair of NRCC, he mentored and helped so many people become a part of this great institution. But then he mentored people like me, along with Representative UPTON of Michigan, to make it to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, where I knew that big things got done and that the world was our jurisdiction.

Not only was he a mentor, but he rose to chair of that committee, and he did it with humility, he did it with humor, he did it with wisdom. And I am so glad you talked about all of the things he accomplished, but he always reminded us that he was an Oregon broadcaster, first and foremost, and that he loved his incredible State of Oregon, and was such a leader.

Mr. Speaker, it has been my pleasure—and my husband David's pleasure—to travel with he and Mylene, and more importantly, most recently, to get to know his son, that next generation of leaders, Anthony.

I thank you for the opportunities you gave me and so many of my colleagues. I wish you the best in retirement. You have been an amazing mentor, an amazing friend, and an amazing leader in this country. You are a statesman, my friend.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to report some breaking news. Roll Call has just put something out online, it will be published tomorrow. And the headline is: "Adulthood might be alive and well in Congress. The retiring LAMAR ALEXANDER and GREG WALDEN show it's possible to do your job in public life while acting like a grown-up."

That is GREG. He got things done. He was an Eagle Scout when he was a

youngster, still is a mighty big Ducks fan. You can't walk into his office without seeing the Ducks. He is in a lot better mood on Monday when you see him if the Ducks win. They didn't win the other day. But he has been a really special individual with real care and handling of all the different issues that our committee deals with.

A partner in leadership on both sides of the aisle, his word is his bond. His staff has been terrific, all of them: All the subcommittee staff, his personal staff, and obviously, his greatest staff person, Mylene. Mylene and his son, Anthony, we have watched him grow up from when Anthony was a youngster, but Mylene has been a special friend, really, to all of us. She puts up with GREG. Usually, she is on the West Coast while he is over here.

Mr. Speaker, he has been a special talent that has been lent to our committee to make this country a better place.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN).

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank all my colleagues who came down tonight to share these words. I want to assure the American people—it feels like a eulogy—I am actually still alive but deeply indebted for their generosity, their kindness, and their words tonight. It means a lot.

I have told people I am not one of the grumpy, cranky Members leaving. This is a great institution with really good people who do good work here. We may not always agree, as my friend from Oregon or my friend from California said, but it doesn't mean we have to be disagreeable. We come here to solve problems. We approach them from different angles representing different Americans, but we come here to find solutions.

I have been so blessed to work with people like Mrs. BROOKS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and my friend from Michigan, Mr. UPTON, and the others who were down here. It is a team effort, and we live in a really, really great country. I have been so blessed to be a part of this institution for the last 22 years.

Mr. Speaker, I had hair when I came here. Honest. I can show you photos. So it will take a lot out of you. But when I do return home, I will complete my 644th round trip between the Nation's Capitol and home. I did that because I really wanted to stay in touch, and my family is here, and yet it proves the point. On almost every flight, my friend from the Portland area, Mr. BLUMENAUER, has been right there with me, and our colleague, Mr. DEFazio, almost every trip. And it is what we do as Members here. We go home, we listen to our constituents, we come back, we try and find solutions, whether it is on opioids or internet connectivity, or all the things that have been referenced tonight.

My success is attributed to the people I have been able to work with, my colleagues. And as Mr. UPTON said, our terrific, brilliant staff in this institution, who work literally day and night. And I know because I get texts from them at midnight when they are reading through a bill or working on an agreement and negotiating at the staff-to-staff level. America is well-served by this institution, and I wish more Americans saw the kind of camaraderie that we have here, the comity we have here, and the accomplishment that we do here.

Mr. Speaker, this place still works, and I just wish well the incoming class of new Members who bring new energy and new ideas to this process. I know they, too, come here to represent their people back home.

Mr. Speaker, to my friends, thank you. This was most generous, over the top, and a big surprise. I thought I was just headed off as a homeless Member of Congress with no office to find something to eat, but instead, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS said I needed to come with her over here.

Thank you to my friends. Mr. UPTON, my dear friend—he and Amey and my wife and I are very close—thank you for your kindness and your words. I will have a more formal farewell speech I will give later this week on the House floor, so I will reserve any further comments to that time.

Mr. Speaker, I just would, again, thank my friend from Michigan, Mr. UPTON.

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

NATIONAL CYBER DIRECTOR ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the Conference Report to accompany the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2021 that we will be considering tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, this is my 20th NDAA, and as ever, I am incredibly proud of the bipartisan work that went in to creating it. Amidst all the 1300 provisions, however, I want to focus on section 1752.

Section 1752 is based on my bill, H.R. 7331, the National Cyber Director Act, and it is the result of more than 10 years of deliberative thought and advocacy. The provision is simple enough. It creates an Office of the National Cyber Director within the Executive Office of the President. The office is led by a director who will be Presidentially appointed and confirmed by the Senate.

The National Cyber Director is charged with being the President's principal adviser on matters of cybersecurity policy with developing and overseeing implementation of the national cyber strategy. He or she will

also be responsible for coordinating government response to serious cyber incidents. And as I said, simple enough, but this represents a complete sea change in the way cybersecurity is handled in the Federal Government.

The need could not be more urgent. Of course, cyber operations, whether carried out by criminals or nation states, continue to threaten us as a Nation. Hardly a day goes by where we don't read about a new ransomware attack taking down an entire hospital system or shutting down businesses. Our adversaries target our elections to strike at the heart of our democracy. They target our defense industrial base that gives us our competitive edge. They are even targeting vaccine research that may be the key to ending the terrible pandemic that we are living through.

Mr. Speaker, cyberspace is a new domain, and the first that has been created entirely by humankind. We would not expect that emerging security challenges in cyberspace would be easy to tackle, and, of course, they have proven to be quite difficult.

After all, many security paradigms that developed about borders are virtually meaningless when it is as easy to attack a computer across the room as it is to attack one half a world away. While decidedly thorny, these challenges are not insurmountable.

However, the Federal Government has not risen to the challenges as well as we could hope. There are many reasons for this, but probably the most important of which is that nobody really is in charge. Cybersecurity is often passed off as an IT problem, best left to the geeks to handle, instead of being recognized as an operational risk that needs attention from senior leadership.

Most Federal agencies do not have cybersecurity in their core missions, so investments in cyber capabilities can fall by the wayside. Computer systems also pervade every aspect of the Federal Government's work, so coordination is required across the entire inter-agency.

The failures to rise to address these challenges poses real risk to the government. Sensitive government data, such as clearance information stored at the Office of Personnel Management, has been stolen. U.S. corporations suffer billions of dollars in damages each year from cyber incidents, and other adversaries increasingly view the cyber domain as ideal for conducting asymmetric warfare in the "gray zone," below the level of armed conflict.

Mr. Speaker, for more than a decade, I have been involved in numerous efforts to root out underlying causes of the government's inability to get its arms around the cybersecurity problem. Most recently, I had the distinct privilege of serving on the Cyberspace Solarium Commission, a 14-member body chartered by Congress to develop a strategic approach to protect the United States from cyber incidents of significant consequence.

One of the things that these efforts have universally uncovered—a finding endorsed recently by the Government Accountability Office—is that a lack of centralized leadership in the White House is holding the government back.

Mr. Speaker, only the White House has the ability to compel interagency cooperation and ensure that cybersecurity efforts are synergistic and deduplicated.

Only the White House can ensure that budgets are adequate, both for internal cyber defense and external cybersecurity programs aimed at protecting the private sector.

Only the White House can effectively coordinate incident response across two dozen agencies with some cybersecurity responsibility.

Now, Presidents Bush and Obama both made strides in improving cybersecurity policy coordination within the White House, changes that were at first carried forward by President Trump and his Homeland Security adviser. But none of them gave the position they created the gravitas and authority it needed to be successful. And eventually, then-national Director John Bolton, eventually eliminated the cybersecurity coordinating position altogether.

Congress needed to step in and provide strategic direction with the National Cyber Director Act that we have here. Finally, we will have the accountability that comes from having a leader within the Executive Office of the President that we can interrogate about cyber strategy writ large, and that we, as the Congress, will in turn be accountable to our constituents for ensuring the strategy is executed and resourced properly.

This NDAA will be an incredibly important bill in the history of cybersecurity legislation, and I am honored to have played a key role in advancing it.

□ 1800

Mr. Speaker, like any bill a decade in the making, many hands have gotten us to this point with the National Cyber Director Act. First off, I owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Speaker NANCY PELOSI for appointing me as her designee to the Cyberspace Solarium Commission. Developing and implementing the commission report has been one of the highlights of my congressional career, and much of the progress that we have made on the National Cyber Director is due to my fellow commissioners.

I want to start with Congressman Patrick Murphy as my original ally on this proposal, based on his experience in these Halls and in the executive branch.

Tom Fanning brought his expertise as a major utility executive in crafting a recommendation that ensures accountability.

Frank Cilluffo focused relentlessly on appropriately scoping the authorities of the office, while Suzanne Spaulding fought to ensure that the

National Cyber Director will have insight into all U.S. operations in the cyber domain.

Dr. Samantha Ravich's initial scepticism was essential to making sure the final recommendation reflects the realities of working within the Executive Office of the President.

Finally, Chris Inglis's invaluable feedback means that the bill we vote on tomorrow will fit squarely within the strategic vision laid out by the commission. Despite my years working on this proposal, I was always impressed by Chris's ability to elegantly connect the National Cyber Director recommendation with our broader mission.

I would never have been exposed to the idea of a stronger coordinating authority within the White House were it not for my time on the Center for Strategic and International Studies' Commission on Cybersecurity for the 44th Presidency, which I was proud to co-chair. My fellow co-chairs, General Harry Raduege, Scott Charney, and especially Congressman MICHAEL MCCAUL, all helped shape my thinking during my first deep dive on this topic. And, of course, we would have been lost without the expert guidance of CSIS's Jim Lewis, the commission's executive director.

After 9 years of trying to pass a bill to codify a cybersecurity role within the White House, what changed this year?

Well, quite frankly, John Bolton and his poor decisionmaking changed the equation. Given the ever-increasing threat in cyberspace, I don't think anyone realistically thought that somebody would dare eliminate the cyber coordinator at the White House. Yet, in one of the worst cybersecurity policy moves ever seen, Bolton did just that, making clear the need for congressional action to establish a permanent cyber director.

That need was well understood by Chairman ADAM SMITH, who has backed the inclusion of Solarium recommendations in the NDAA since day one and who has consistently supported the National Cyber Director Act.

Chairwoman CAROLYN MALONEY also provided vital support. When I first spoke to her about the Solarium report, she immediately got why leadership in the White House was so important. In addition to joining the National Cyber Director Act as an original cosponsor, she convened a legislative hearing that teed up consideration on the House floor. The witnesses at that hearing—former House Intelligence Committee Chairman MIKE ROGERS, former Obama Cybersecurity Coordinator Michael Daniel, Tenable CEO Amit Yoran, and Suzanne Spaulding—made a clear and compelling case for an expedited consideration of the bill.

Chairman JIM MCGOVERN and his Rules Committee colleagues took up this charge, ruling in order an amendment consisting of the text of H.R. 7331 during our floor debate on the NDAA.

As my colleagues well know, passing the House is only half the battle. Here is where my fellow legislative commissioners really carried the day:

Senator BEN SASSE, who authored the legislation to create the Cyberspace Solarium Commission, made more efficiently organizing the government a central part of his push for improved cybersecurity.

Our colleague and Solarium co-chair, Congressman MIKE GALLAGHER, has been with me every step of the way, on the National Cyber Director and the 16 other Solarium provisions we moved through the NDAA process.

Anyone who claims bipartisanship is dead in Washington has not met these two exemplars of comity and serious policy deliberativeness.

In the Senate, my counterpart, the chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee's Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Senator MIKE ROUNDS, has been a negotiating partner without equal. Senator ROUNDS came to the table with an open mind, asked tough but fair questions, requested additional information about our proposal, and, at the end of the day, helped to strengthen it and push it through the conference process.

I also thank Congressman KATKO, who went to bat for the National Cyber Director in conversations with the White House.

A special note of thanks is reserved for our other Solarium co-chair, Senator ANGUS KING. Senator KING has been the soul of the Solarium Commission, and I continue to be in awe of his steady leadership throughout the process. Senator KING's maxims—whether that “sloppy structure leads to sloppy policy” or that we needed “one throat to choke” in the executive branch—perfectly encapsulate the central theme and issues at stake. I can say for a fact that no one fought harder to ensure that the Senate accepted a strong version of the National Cyber Director Act in the conference process.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, as all of my colleagues know, we would be lost in this institution without the staff that supports us. I never would have begun this journey in cybersecurity policy if it were not for Jake Olcott, my former staff director on the Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cyber Security, and Science and Technology.

Likewise, my then-MLA Davis Hake helped draft and introduce the Executive Cyberspace Authorities Act of 2010 that provided the scaffolding for the National Cyber Director Act; and his successor, Michael Hermann, further refined the concept.

The Solarium Commission staff has been, frankly, extraordinary to work with and a great testament to the commission's executive director, Admiral Mark Montgomery. From day one, Mark challenged us to draft a report that would be actionable, not just a doorstop, and this NDAA is a realization of his vision and his unflinching work ethic.

My fellow legislators' Solarium liaisons—Steve Smith on Senator KING's staff, Chas Morrison on Congressman GALLAGHER's, and Brett Fetterly on Senator SASSE's—stepped up to ensure that all of the oars stayed rowing in the same direction, no matter how choppy the waters.

We would never have had a hearing on the bill were it not for Emily Burns of Chairwoman MALONEY's staff. Lori Ismail was our critical link at the Rules Committee to ensure the bill would have the opportunity to be debated and voted upon.

On the Senate side, Jeff Rothblum from Ranking Member PETER's staff helped us navigate the jurisdictional hurdles that come with any piece of cybersecurity legislation and offered insightful comments and guidance throughout the process.

During the conference process itself, we relied heavily on Katie Sutton and Kirk McConnell, two true pros on the Senate Armed Services Committee staff; and Eric Snelgrove, staff lead for Ranking Member ELISE STEFANIK.

Lastly, but surely not least, I want to acknowledge my own staff. My MLA, Caroline Goodson, ably assisted by our defense fellow, Captain Mike Lake, thrived in her first NDAA and expertly balanced the many priorities I have within my IETC portfolio and for my constituents in Rhode Island.

My cybersecurity fellows David Wagner, Eric Saund, and particularly Allison Browning, have all been brilliant minds and wonderful team players who have helped me get the most out of the Solarium Commission.

At the end of the day, though, this bill never would have gotten done without my IETC cyber lead, Josh Stiefel. Josh immediately understood the importance of the National Cyber Director, based on his time working on cybersecurity in the interagency. Using that experience and his skill at negotiating, he definitely steered the National Cyber Director Act—and more than two dozen other Solarium recommendations—through the NDAA. One of the hardest things to do is to entrust someone else with something of great value to you, but I never had any hesitation letting Josh work the staff-level discussions. I am incredibly lucky to have him on my team.

Finally, and most importantly, the National Cyber Director Act, the dozens of other Solarium recommendations, and countless other cyber initiatives that I have developed over the years would never have existed were it not for my legislative director, Nick Leiserson. Nick has been the engine on my cyber policy work for 6 years. His legislative expertise and commitment to advancing effective cybersecurity policy have elevated the cyber discussion on Capitol Hill and kept our country safer. He has worked tirelessly for many years, and I am deeply grateful for how he has turned the National Cyber Director idea into legislation and finally into reality.

Mr. Speaker, this year's NDAA is one of the most important pieces of cybersecurity legislation ever to be considered by Congress. There are so many cyber provisions—from creating the Joint Cyber Planning Office at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to requiring a cyber force structure assessment—that we had to create a new title for the bill. But the crown jewel is the National Cyber Director Act.

I look forward to working with President Biden, Vice President HARRIS, and the new administration to stand up this office. I have often said that there are no silver bullets in cybersecurity policymaking, and I still believe that. But I know that I will sleep more soundly knowing that there is a central coordinating figure in the White House empowered to protect the country. I hope that the legacy of this bill will be safety, security, and stability in cyberspace for decades to come.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ADERHOLT (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today and the balance of the week on account of quarantining as recommended by the Office of Attending Physician due to a positive Coronavirus test.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 3349. An act to authorize the Daughters of the Republic of Texas to establish the Republic of Texas Legation Memorial as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3465. An act to authorize the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 910. An act to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes.

S. 945. An act to amend the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 to require certain issuers to disclose to the Securities and Exchange Commission information regarding foreign jurisdictions that prevent the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board from performing inspections under that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1069. An act to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a constituent-driven program to provide a digital information platform capable of efficiently integrating coastal data with decision-support tools, training, and best practices and

to support collection of priority coastal geospatial data to inform and improve local, State, regional, and Federal capacities to manage the coastal region, and for other purposes.

S. 1982. An act to improve efforts to combat marine debris, and for other purposes.

S. 4054. An act to reauthorize the United States Grain Standards Act, and for other purposes.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported that on November 24, 2020, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 1833. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 35 Tulip Avenue in Floral Park, New York, as the "Lieutenant Michael R. Davidson Post Office Building".

H.R. 3207. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 114 Mill Street in Hookstown, Pennsylvania, as the "Staff Sergeant Dylan Elchin Post Office Building".

H.R. 3317. To permit the Scipio A. Jones Post Office in Little Rock, Arkansas, to accept and display a portrait of Scipio A. Jones, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3329. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5186 Benito Street in Montclair, California, as the "Paul Eaton Post Office Building".

H.R. 4734. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 171 South Maple Street in Dana, Indiana, as the "Ernest 'Ernie' T. Pyle Post Office".

H.R. 4794. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8320 13th Avenue in Brooklyn, New York, as the "Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini Post Office Building".

H.R. 5384. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Crosby Street in Mansfield, Louisiana, as the "Dr. C.O. Simpkins, Sr., Post Office".

H.R. 5037. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3703 North Main Street in Farmville, North Carolina, as the "Walter B. Jones, Jr. Post Office".

H.R. 4981. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2505 Derita Avenue in Charlotte, North Carolina, as the "Julius L. Chambers Civil Rights Memorial Post Office".

H.R. 835. To impose criminal sanctions on certain persons involved in international doping fraud conspiracies, to provide restitution for victims of such conspiracies, and to require sharing of information with the United States Anti-Doping Agency to assist its fight against doping, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1668. To establish minimum security standards for Internet of Things devices owned or controlled by the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3589. To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Greg LeMond, in recognition of his service to the Nation as an athlete, activist, role model, and community leader.

H.R. 4104. To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Negro Leagues baseball.

H.R. 5901. To establish a program to facilitate the adoption of modern technology by executive agencies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8247. To make certain improvements relating to the transition of individuals to services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, suicide prevention for veterans, and care and services for women veterans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8276. To authorize the President to posthumously award the Medal of Honor to Alwyn C. Cashe for acts of valor during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

H.R. 1773. To award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the women in the United States who joined the workforce during World War II, providing the aircraft, vehicles, weaponry, ammunition and other material to win the war, that were referred to as "Rosie the Riveter", in recognition of their contributions to the United States and the inspiration they have provided to ensuing generations.

H.R. 8472. To provide that, due to the disruptions caused by COVID-19, applications for impact aid funding for fiscal year 2022 may use certain data submitted in the fiscal year 2021 application.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(b) of House Resolution 967, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 6 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, December 8, 2020, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

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, the attached estimate of the costs of H.R. 8428, the Hong Kong People's Freedom and Choice Act of 2020, as amended, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

ESTIMATE OF PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS FOR H.R. 8428

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—											
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2021–2025	2021–2030
Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Impact	–10	–9	–12	–9	–6	–5	–5	–5	–5	–4	–46	–70

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-5818. A letter from the Secretary, Division of Market Oversight, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Retail Commodity Transactions Regarding Certain Digital Assets (RIN: 3038-AE62) received November 4, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-5819. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Margin Requirements for Uncleared Swaps for Swap Dealers and Major Swap Participants (RIN: 3038-AE89) received November 4, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-5820. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Margin Requirements for Uncleared Swaps for Swap Dealers and Major Swap Participants (RIN: 3038-AE77) received November 4, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-5821. A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Exemption from the Swap Clearing Requirement for Certain Affiliated Entities — Alternative Compliance Frameworks for Anti-Evasionary Measures (RIN: 3038-AE92) received November 4, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-5822. A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Privacy of Consumer Financial Information (RIN: 3038-AE91) received November 4, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law

104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-5823. A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Cross-Border Application of the Registration Thresholds and Certain Requirements Applicable to Swap Dealers and Major Swap Participants (RIN: 3038-AE84) received November 4, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-5824. A letter from the Regulations Management Division, Rural Development-Innovation Center, Rural Development Agencies — RBCS-RHS and RUS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Authority To Enable Funding of Broadband and Smart Utility Facilities Across Select Rural Development Programs [Docket Numbers: RUS-20-TELECOM-0022] (RIN: 0572-AC50) received November 16, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-5825. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Deregulation of Pine Shoot Beetle [Docket No.: APHIS-2016-0065] (RIN: 0579-AE41) received November 4, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-5826. A letter from the Deputy Administrator for Policy Support, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Commodity Supplemental Food Program: Implementation of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 [FNS-2019-0006] (RIN: 0584-AE66) received November 16, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-5827. A letter from the Deputy Administrator for Policy Support, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) Integrity [FNS-2020-0028] (RIN: 0584-AE80) received November 16, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-5828. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Pesticides; Agricultural Worker Protection Standard; Revision of the Application Exclusion Zone Requirements [EPA-HQ-OPP-2017-0543; FRL-10016-03] (RIN: 2070-AK49) received November 4, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-5829. A letter from the Secretary, U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Registration With Alternative Compliance for Non-U.S. Derivatives Clearing Organizations (RIN: 3038-AE87) received November 16, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-5830. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Policy, Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting a determination that a negotiated comprehensive subcontracting plan did not meet the subcontracting goals negotiated in their prior fiscal year, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 637 note; Public Law 114-92, Sec. 872(d)(2); (129 Stat. 939); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5831. A letter from the Under Secretary, Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a semi-annual report titled, "Acceptance of contributions for defense programs, projects, and activities; Defense Cooperation Account", pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2608(i); Public Law 101-403, title II, Sec. 202(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 103-160, Sec. 1105(b)); (107 Stat. 1750); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5832. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Investment Security, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Provisions Pertaining to Certain Investments in the United States by Foreign Persons (RIN: 1505-AC68) received November 4, 2020, 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-5833. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, OLA, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's Major final rule — Regulatory Capital Rule: Transition for the Community Bank Leverage Ratio Framework (RIN: 3064-AF47) re-

ceived November 16, 2020, 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-5834. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the 2019 Annual Report to the Congress on the Native Hawaiian Revolving Loan Fund, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 2991b-1(g)(1); Public Law 88-452, Sec. 803A (as amended by Public Law 102-375, Sec. 822(2)); (106 Stat. 1296); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

EC-5835. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the 2019 Annual Report to the Congress on the Native Hawaiian Revolving Loan Fund, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 2991b-1(g)(1); Public Law 88-452, Sec. 803A (as amended by Public Law 102-375, Sec. 822(2)); (106 Stat. 1296); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

EC-5836. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a Report to Congress: Pediatric Research in Fiscal Year 2019, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 284h(c)(3); Public Law 106-310, Sec. 1001; (114 Stat. 1128); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-5837. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting that, as a result of continued consequences of the opioid crisis, a renewal, effective October 10, 2020, that a public health emergency exists and has existed since October 26, 2017, nationwide, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 247d(a); July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title III, Sec. 319(a) (as amended by Public Law 107-188, Sec. 144(a)); (116 Stat. 630); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-5838. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Progress Report on the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program and National Cord Blood Inventory Program, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 274k(a)(6); July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title III, Sec. 379 (as amended by Public Law 109-129, Sec. 3(a)); (119 Stat. 2554); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-5839. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Clofentezine; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0281; FRL-10015-25] received November 4, 2020, 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-5840. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Dipropylene Glycol and Triethylene Glycol; Exemption From the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0218 and EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0219; FRL-10015-39] (RIN: 2070-ZA16) received November 4, 2020, 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-5841. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Fuels Regulatory Streamlining [EPA-HQ-OAR-2018-0227; FRL-10014-97-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AT31) received November 4, 2020, 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-5842. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Hazardous and Solid Waste Management System: Disposal of CCR; A Holistic Approach to Closure Part B: Alternate Demonstration for Unlined Surface Impoundments [EPA-HQ-OLEM-2019-0173; FRL-10015-

88-OLEM] (RIN: 2050-AH11) received November 4, 2020, 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-5843. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Indoxacarb; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0384; FRL-10012-78] received November 4, 2020, 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-5844. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Mefenoxam; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0346; FRL-10012-87] received November 4, 2020, 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-5845. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; California; Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2019-0127; FRL-10014-90-Region 9] received November 16, 2020, 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-5846. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Iowa; Air Quality Implementation Plan-Muscataine Sulfur Dioxide Nonattainment Area and Start-up, Shutdown, Malfunction SIP Call Withdrawal [EPA-R07-OAR-2017-0416; FRL-10016-10-Region 7] received November 16, 2020, 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-5847. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Technical Amendment [EPA-R05-OAR-2020-055; FRL-10016-32-Region 5] received November 16, 2020, 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-5848. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Pennsylvania; Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT) for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) Under the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) [EPA-R03-OAR-2019-0562; FRL-10014-11-Region 3] received November 16, 2020, 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-5849. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Quality Implementation Plan; California; Calaveras County Air Pollution Control District and Mariposa County Air Pollution Control District; Stationary Source Permits [EPA-R09-OAR-2019-0498; FRL-10015-31-Region 9] received November 16, 2020, 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-5850. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; California; Butte County; El Dorado County; Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District; San Diego County; Ventura County [EPA-R09-OAR-2020-0122; FRL-10014-19-Region 9] received November 16, 2020, 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-5851. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) and Nonattainment New Source Review (NNSR): Project Emissions Accounting [EPA-HQ-OAR-2018-0048; FRL-10016-21-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AT89) received November 16, 2020, 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-5852. A letter from the Program Analyst, Office of Managing Director, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Process Reform for Executive Branch Review of Certain FCC Applications and Petitions Involving Foreign Ownership [IB Docket No.: 16-155] received November 16, 2020, 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-5853. A letter from the Program Analyst, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Facilitating Shared Use in the 3100-3550 MHz Band [WT Docket No.:19-348] received November 16, 2020, 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-5854. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-5855. A letter from the Department of the Treasury, Secretary, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to serious human rights abuse and corruption that was declared in Executive Order 13818 of December 20, 2017, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-5856. A letter from the Assistant Legal Advisor, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); Public Law 92-403, Sec. 1(a) (as amended by Public Law 108-458, Sec. 7121(b)); (118 Stat. 3807); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-5857. A letter from the Assistant Legal Advisor, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); Public Law 92-403, Sec. 1(a) (as amended by Public Law 108-458, Sec. 7121(b)); (118 Stat. 3807); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-5858. A letter from the Chair, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve system, transmitting the Board's Semiannual Report to Congress prepared by the office of Inspector General for the Board and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-5859. A letter from the Acting Administrator and Chief Executive Officer, Bonne-

ville Power Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting the 2020 Annual Report of the Bonneville Power Administration, pursuant to the Third Powerplant at Grand Coulee Dam Act, 16 U.S.C. 835; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-5860. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's Fiscal Year 2020 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-5861. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2020, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-5862. A letter from the Executive Director, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting the Board's final rule — Simplification of Catch-Up Contribution Process received November 16, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-5863. A letter from the Archivist of the United States, National Archives, transmitting the Archive's FY 2020 Commercial and Inherently Governmental Activities Inventory report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 501 note; Public Law 105-270, Sec. 2(c)(1)(A); (112 Stat. 2382); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-5864. A letter from the Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting the Administration's Fiscal Year 2020 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-5865. A letter from the Treasurer, National Gallery of Art, transmitting the Gallery's Performance and Accountability Report for the year ended September 30, 2020 which includes consolidated financial statements, federal financial statements (as supplementary schedules) and auditor's report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-5866. A letter from the Director, National Science Foundation, transmitting the Foundation's Fiscal Year 2020 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-5867. A letter from the Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting the Board's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2020; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-5868. A letter from the Chairman, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting the Commission's Fiscal Year 2020 Performance and Accountability Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-5869. A letter from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting the Office's Annual Financial Report for fiscal year 2020, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-5870. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting four (4)

notifications of a vacancy, a designation of acting officer, a nomination, and an action on nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-5871. A letter from the Chair, U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, transmitting the Board's Fiscal Year 2020 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-5872. A letter from the Assistant Chief Counsel for General Law, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Metrics and Minimum Standards for Intercity Passenger Rail Service [Docket No.: FRA-2019-0069; Notice No.: 3] (RIN: 2130-AC85) received November 16, 2020, 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-5873. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Rail Integrity and Track Safety Standards [Docket No.: FRA-2018-0104; Notice No.: 2] (RIN: 2130-AC53) received November 4, 2020, 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-5874. A letter from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Chief Counsel, Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Hazardous Materials: Editorial Corrections and Clarifications [Docket No.: PHMSA-2018-0082 (HM-260A)] (RIN: 2137-AF43) received November 16, 2020, 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-5875. A letter from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Chief Counsel, Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Hazardous Materials: Editorial Corrections and Clarifications [Docket No.: PHMSA-2018-0082 (HM-260A)] (RIN: 2137-AF43) received November 16, 2020, 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-5876. A letter from the Director, Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's Major final regulation — Base Erosion and Anti-Abuse Tax [TD 9910] (RIN: 1545-BP36) received November 16, 2020, 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-5877. A letter from the Director, Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations — Computation and Reporting of Reserves for Life Insurance Companies [TD 9911] (RIN: 1545-BO13) received November 16, 2020, 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-5878. A letter from the Director, Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations — Meals and Entertainment Expenses Under Section 274 [TD 9925] (RIN: 1545-BP23) received November 16, 2020, 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-5879. A letter from the Director, Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB Only rule

— Requirement that Specified Tax Return Preparers Electronically File Form 1040-NT (U.S. Nonresident Alien Income Tax Return) [Notice 2020-70] received November 16, 2020, 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-5880. A letter from the Regulations Writer-Federal Register Liaison, Office of Regulations and Report Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Hearings Held by Administrative Appeals Judges of the Appeals Council [Docket No.: SSA-2017-0073] (RIN: 0960-AI25) received November 20, 2020, 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-5881. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a Report to Congress on Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) Section 1332 State Innovation Waivers, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 18052(a)(4)(C); Public Law 111-148, Sec. 1332(a)(4)(C); (124 Stat. 205); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

EC-5882. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States, Department of Justice, transmitting the annual report for CY 2019 of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 4107; July 3, 1948, ch. 826, Sec. 9 (as amended by Public Law 89-348, Sec. 2(6)); (79 Stat. 1312) and 22 U.S.C. 1622(c); Mar. 10, 1950, ch. 54, Sec. 3(c) (as amended by Aug. 9, 1955, ch. 645, Sec. 1); (69 Stat. 562); jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. NADLER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 8354. A bill to establish the Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative within the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, and for other purposes (Rept. 116-618). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. PALLONE: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 3797. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to make marijuana accessible for use by qualified marijuana researchers for medical purposes, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-619, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. NEAL: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 3429. A bill to provide for health equity and access for returning troops and servicemembers, to provide for ambulatory surgical payment transparency under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 116-620, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on the Judiciary discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3797 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. NORMAN:

H.R. 8883. A bill to modify certain requirements with respect to nonimmigrants admitted under subparagraph (F), (J), or (M) of section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, and Ms. MOORE):

H.R. 8884. A bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to modify and extend the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 8885. A bill to provide incentives for the purchase of water-efficient products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Reform, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 8886. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for prohibitions on eviction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. GABBARD:

H.R. 8887. A bill to amend the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 with respect to grants for certain areawide integrated pest management projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. KATKO (for himself and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 8888. A bill to amend the Overtime Pay for Protective Services Act of 2016 to extend the Secret Service overtime pay exception through 2025, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. MOULTON (for himself and Mr. CLYBURN):

H.R. 8889. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend to Black veterans of World War II, and surviving spouses and certain direct descendants of such veterans, eligibility for certain housing loans and educational assistance administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 8890. A bill to transfer from the United States Parole Commission to the District of Columbia the authority to grant, deny, and revoke parole and impose conditions on an order of parole, and the authority to modify, revoke, and terminate a term of supervised release and impose conditions on an order of supervised release, in the case of individuals who are imprisoned felons eligible for parole, reparole, or supervised release under the laws of the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. PHILLIPS (for himself, Mr. HAGEDORN, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. OMAR, Mr. EMMER, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. STAUBER):

H.R. 8891. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 229 Minnetonka Avenue South in Wayzata, Minnesota, as the "Jim Ramstad Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. WENSTRUP (for himself and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama):

H.R. 8892. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to support rural residency training funding and promote partnerships with urban teaching hospitals; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition

to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

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. NORMAN:

H.R. 8883.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 8884.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 8885.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to the power of Congress to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.)

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 8886.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8:

To pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and the general Welfare of the United States.

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. GABBARD:

H.R. 8887.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution including Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 (General Welfare Clause) and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 (Necessary and Proper Clause), Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2 (Property).

By Mr. KATKO:

H.R. 8888.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and Clause 3 of the United States Constitution: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States

By Mr. MOULTON:

H.R. 8889.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clauses 12, 13, 14, and 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution.

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 8890.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 17 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. PHILLIPS:

H.R. 8891.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution provides Congress with the power to establish Post Offices.

By Mr. WENSTRUP:

H.R. 8892.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 40: Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 55: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 141: Ms. STEVENS.
H.R. 300: Mr. BURGESS.
H.R. 1042: Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 1052: Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 1055: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1426: Mr. TAYLOR.
H.R. 1570: Mr. TAYLOR.
H.R. 1763: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr.

CARSON of Indiana, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mrs. LAWRENCE.

H.R. 1878: Ms. ADAMS.

H.R. 1966: Mr. KIM.

H.R. 1979: Mr. ROUDA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 2442: Mr. NEAL and Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 2482: Mr. MALINOWSKI.

H.R. 2650: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 3138: Ms. DEAN.

H.R. 3435: Ms. HAALAND.

H.R. 3922: Mr. ROSE of New York.

H.R. 4126: Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 5172: Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. GOLDEN, Ms. SCHRIER, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COLE, and Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 5856: Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 6754: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 6855: Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 6958: Mr. HECK, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 7011: Ms. HAALAND.

H.R. 7233: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 7419: Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 7500: Ms. PORTER and Mr. GRIFFITH.

H.R. 7659: Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee.

Mr. LONG, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. CRIST, and Mr. GIBBS.

H.R. 7755: Mr. TED LIEU of California.

H.R. 7843: Ms. SLOTKIN and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 7883: Mr. GOHMERT and Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 7898: Mr. TAYLOR.

H.R. 7916: Mr. SIREs, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, and Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 8318: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.

H.R. 8334: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 8624: Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 8637: Ms. SCHRIER and Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H.R. 8662: Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. MFUME, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mrs.

LURIA, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. GOSAR, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. RICHMOND, and Mrs. MCBATH.

H.R. 8687: Mr. BROWN of Maryland and Mrs. LURIA.

H.R. 8702: Mr. COX of California, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. SMUCKER, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 8731: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 8764: Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 8790: Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. HARDER of California, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mr. SCHRADER.

H.R. 8791: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Ms. FUDGE.

H.R. 8797: Mr. MOULTON, Mr. KEATING, Mrs. HAYES, and Mr. CASTEN of Illinois.

H.R. 8801: Mr. RUTHERFORD, Ms. HAALAND, and Mr. MEKKS.

H.R. 8809: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.

H.R. 8812: Ms. SCHRIER.

H.R. 8826: Ms. DEGETTE.

H.R. 8845: Mr. VAN DREW and Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 8867: Mr. RIGGLEMAN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.J. Res. 8: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.J. Res. 104: Mr. FOSTER.

H. Res. 114: Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. TED LIEU of California.

H. Res. 512: Mr. TAYLOR.

H. Res. 823: Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H. Res. 1029: Ms. LOFGREN.

H. Res. 1042: Ms. JAYAPAL.

H. Res. 1100: Mr. TAYLOR.

H. Res. 1117: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H. Res. 1212: Ms. STEFANIK.

H. Res. 1231: Ms. OMAR.

H. Res. 1243: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.

H. Res. 1249: Mr. HUIZENGA.



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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Great Redeemer, guide our law-makers along the best path to fulfill Your purposes on Earth. May they submit to Your wisdom and providential leading, believing that You will supply all of their needs. Remind them that Your unfailing love accompanies those who put their trust in You.

Lord, give our Senators an attitude of reverential awe that will keep them from evil and inspire them to rejoice and be glad as they strive to live lives of purity and obedience.

And, Lord, as we remember Pearl Harbor on this December 7, thank You for Your loving and prevailing providence. May we show our gratitude by facing the future without fear.

We pray in Your majestic 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAWLEY). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 minute in morning business.

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

RECOGNIZING IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I want to visit with my colleagues about something that hasn't happened in

Iowa for over 100 years. Over the week-end, the Iowa State football team completed their regular season play. The Cyclones are having a noteworthy season. They secured the first place rank in the Big 12 Conference's regular season after winning five consecutive conference games and eight overall conference wins this season.

The good news doesn't stop there for the Iowa State football program. The Cyclones finished first place in league play, for the first time since 1912, when they won the Missouri Valley Conference. This has earned the Cyclones their well-deserved spot in the Big 12 title game on December 19, the first ever Big 12 championship appearance in Iowa State University's history.

I want to applaud the Cyclones for their historic season. So many fans, including me, will be rooting them on for the Big 12 championship game.

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. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will pro-

ceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Stephen Sidney Schwartz, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, speaking both as a Senator from Vermont and as vice chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I am speaking with concern about what has been happening in the Senate.

It has been 321 days since the first COVID-19 case was reported in the United States—321 days. It has been 282 days since the first COVID-19 death was reported in the United States.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the unemployment rate in November was 6.7 percent, nearly double the rate in November of last year. Hundreds of thousands of small businesses across the country have closed permanently, all due to COVID.

As of today, there are more than 14,800,000 reported cases of COVID-19 in the United States. To put that in perspective, that is 1 million more than just a week ago. More than 282,000 Americans have died, and it has been 256 days since the Senate passed the CARES Act—256 days since the Senate acted in a comprehensive, meaningful way to address the real and mounting concerns and needs of our constituents.

My State of Vermont is like everywhere else. Healthcare workers, caregivers, business owners, employees, teachers, and students are all in need of support during these difficult and uncertain times.

We have families wrestling with heightened food insecurity. People for the first time in their lives cannot feed their children and they cannot feed themselves. They have the threat of eviction from their homes hanging over them.

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



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We have States that are strapped by budget shortfalls and are forced to lay off thousands of employees, people who have worked so hard for the people of their State.

It has been 205 days since the House first passed the Heroes Act, and it has been 65 days since they stepped forward to offer a substantial compromise on the Heroes Act and passed it again. And where does it sit? It sits on my friend the Republican leader's desk. It is collecting dust. It is the largest and most significant bill in the McConnell legislative graveyard.

Why aren't we voting? Look what happens. We can't even bring ourselves to actually vote on something to help Americans, to help the people of our own States. They are being thrown out of their houses, their apartments, and out of their jobs, and we come in for a few days and then get on an airplane and fly back home, and the taxpayers pay for it, taxpayers paying our salaries and all and nothing happens.

Now, like millions of Americans, I am encouraged by the news of recent weeks that pharmaceutical companies are making significant progress on vaccine development. I am encouraged that some of these vaccines may be available as early as later this month.

Let's not forget why we were able to develop vaccines so quickly. It is because of longstanding Federal investment in cutting-edge research at the National Institutes of Health—research that has been backed by so many of us in both parties for years in this body. NIH funded research in genetic and genomic sequencing and enabled the research of COVID-19 that led to the vaccine. This is the power of Federal dollars when it is targeted to solve a national—a national—problem. We need more of that today.

The development of several promised vaccines is great news, but if you don't have a comprehensive plan in place and resources implemented, how can we be sure the vaccination is safe, effective, widely available, and free?

Can anybody stand up and say that every part of their State will have vaccination? No, the money is not there yet, and we haven't done anything on that. It is a complete abdication of our responsibility as elected Representatives that we have simply failed to act.

Now, I know that my friends across the aisle will probably rush to the floor, and they will blame Democrats for stalling on their inadequate, face-saving proposal that they went through the motions to bring before the elections. Remember what it was. It was a give-away to insurance companies, and they didn't even have the courage to allow amendments for people to actually have to vote up or down. It is easier to make a face-saving gesture knowing it would not go anywhere.

Sure, it made some investments in small businesses. It provided some employment relief, albeit at a significantly reduced level. But it also tied educational relief to forcing kids back

into the classroom, even if it is an area where it was not safe to accommodate those children.

It failed to deliver on relief to State and local governments, which are continuing to try to provide essential services to their communities, as our government is in Vermont. It included nothing for Low Income Home Energy Assistance, or LIHEAP. And it was snowing in our State and in a lot of other northern States this weekend. It had no funding for mental health services. Can you imagine what is going on—no funding for mental health service? There is no funding for nutrition assistance. There wasn't a dime for NIH research. And it didn't have a plan—a vigorous plan—or an investment in vaccination production and distribution.

It is one thing to say we have these supercold things on an airplane. Wonderful. When are you going to be able to bring it to our factories, our schools, our hospitals, and our senior citizens and actually vaccinate them?

So what was the legislation brought up here? It created a shield for corporate misconduct. And what it said is that my friends, the Republicans, are more keen to shield corporate cronies than to work on behalf of the American people. That is a sham. It is a shame, especially when you find that at least in one of those corporations that want a shield, the managers were betting on who would get COVID first.

In my home State of Vermont, our Governor and our State legislature, our mayors, and our town leaders across State have taken bold moves to slow the spread of COVID. Our Governor is Republican, and I am a Democrat. I praise him for what he did. I talked with him again today about the steps he has taken—difficult steps, hard steps, but steps to keep Vermonters safe. And these moves taken in my State of Vermont resulted in lower instances of the virus than anywhere else in the country. But as the Governor said and what I have said and everybody else has said, they have come with a cost. We have kept people safe, but not without a cost. Unemployment remains. Small businesses continue to struggle, if they are even able to stay in existence. That says nothing of the personal hardship families are facing across our small State.

One elderly woman called my office. She expressed frustration with the President. She told my staff that she has only been able to visit her husband, who is in a medical rehab facility, a couple of times during this pandemic due to COVID restrictions. That is not an anecdote. That is a personal tragedy.

In Vermont, the State and local governments are worrying about how to clear the roads this winter if COVID hits the plow crews. Snow removal isn't a luxury in Vermont in the winter. It is a necessity. We sometimes have 7, 8, 9, 10 inches of snow overnight. But we expect our businesses

and our schools to open that day. I don't know how many times, at home, on a snowy night, I wake at 4:30 in the morning as I hear the snowplows going by on the road, and I know I can get to my office a couple of hours later—and we have had nearly a foot of snow.

My staff spoke with one Vermont mother—not unusual. She is raising a son with autism. With school systems strained to their limits, special education services have been sharply reduced. That is going to have a lasting impact on these students, both educationally and socially.

For those who are facing challenges like addiction, depression, or mental health issues—and that can be any one of our States—or who were simply down on their luck before COVID hit earlier this year, access to vital resources like counseling or intervention has been made more complicated by COVID restrictions, often with tragic results.

I heard of one Vermonter who passed away alone in a motel room in Rutland in October. Battling mental health issues, he had become homeless just as COVID struck earlier this year. And due to the risks of the virus, family and friends were unable to take him into their homes. This isn't just a story. It is a man's life. And there are so many more people out there facing the same struggles.

We are seeing images of car lines at food banks stretching for miles, as an unprecedented wave of food insecurity is washing over our country. In my State alone, one in every four Vermonters are now food insecure. Before this pandemic, it was already an unacceptable 1 in 10.

We are asking children to learn without providing the necessary resources their teachers need. We are asking families to pay rent without their jobs and for people to deal with their chronic illnesses while our hospitals are still stretched to capacity. All of this is while an unacceptable amount of people are unsure how they will put food on the table through the end of the week in the wealthiest Nation on Earth. That is unconscionable.

I must say that the leadership across the aisle has got to bring up these bills. Stop stalling. You know, they say we only need a targeted approach, and they point to the stock market as proof. These people who are out of jobs aren't looking at the stock market. These people who can't feed their children aren't looking at the stock market. For these people whose rent has come due and they can't pay it, to them that is nonsense.

The economy is not going to recover until we have vanquished the virus. It is that simple. It is that basic. And people are suffering now. That is the cost of inaction—inaction on real, comprehensive, COVID relief legislation.

Now with our backs against the wall with a funding deadline looming, we are racing to accomplish what should

have been done months ago: annual appropriations bills to keep our government running. We were ready on this side of the aisle to vote on those back in June and have a couple of amendments up or down. Republicans, in the majority, if they didn't like a Democratic amendment, they could vote it down. We could have done it back then. Now the deadline is this week, months later. We have to pass these bills before Congress adjourns this year so there is no disruption in our government, in our services during this difficult time in our country. It will only exacerbate the growing problems facing many Americans today. But our annual appropriations bills are no substitute for the significant investment we need to confront this national and international emergency. We need a comprehensive COVID relief bill.

It is time to get serious. Instead of flying off every weekend back home, stay here. Vote these things up or down. Bring up amendments on both sides of the aisle. Have an agreement on the amendments and vote them up or down, because time is wasted.

How many hours have we spent racing to confirm nomination after nomination at the expense of everything else, including dealing with the emergency of this pandemic, while COVID cases soar and more and more people succumb to this virus? How much more time will the Senate waste while American families and communities suffer? It is time for us to do our job. We are elected for 6-year terms. Let's stay here for 6 days during the week, if need be. Let's get it done. The American people are suffering enough. We shouldn't be adding to that strain by playing politics with these essential priorities.

I am hearing from Vermonters every day, worried about unemployment benefits, their children's education, their health or for that of their loved ones, about food security, about keeping their homes and paying their bills.

The Senate, when it has been at its best, has been the conscience of the Nation. It is long past time that we started acting like the conscience of the Nation. It has been 256 days since the Senate took meaningful action on this COVID epidemic. We shouldn't wait a day longer. Let's set everything else aside. Let's have votes on these programs. Let's vote up or down. This Senator is ready to do that.

I see the distinguished leader on the floor.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ERNST). The majority leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, we have reached the time of year when the Senate has more important outstanding business than we have days to complete it. Delivering for the American people will take focus, dexterity, and genuine bipartisanship. On govern-

ment funding, as I have said for weeks, it is my hope that our committees' work will bear fruit and a full-year funding package will come to the floor in both Chambers.

I anticipate that the Senate will take up a 1-week extension this week so the government does not close on December 11 and work can continue through the end of next week.

The Nation needs our Democratic colleagues to resist the temptation to play brinksmanship with long-settled policy issues or push poison-pill riders that they know would tank the process.

We also expect to receive and pass a conference report on the annual Defense authorization. And we need to continue confirming nominees to vacancies in the judiciary and the executive branch.

We Senators are no strangers to the end-of-year drama, but this time the stakes are far higher. We are up against another, even steeper surge in COVID-19 than we saw back in the spring. Workers and small businesses are once again struggling to make ends meet as States and localities step up precautions.

And while the latest news on the vaccine trials suggest that victory over the virus may soon be within reach, our work in that area is far from complete. As one recent article put it, "State [and] local officials plead for vaccine distribution funds."

Our Nation's historic sprint to victory through vaccines seems poised to succeed in record time, but the critical last step—hundreds of millions of doses out to the American people—is still in front of us. Congress cannot stay on the sidelines.

Yesterday, our colleague from Illinois, the Democratic whip, gave an interview in which he named three examples of highly urgent matters that need to be addressed for our Nation right now. This is the Democratic whip of the U.S. Senate.

Here are the three things Senator DURBIN mentioned as flashing red, urgent priorities: "The millions of people who are going to . . . lose their unemployment insurance the day after Christmas"; "the businesses that are trying to decide . . . whether or not they can continue"; and "the [vaccine] logistics . . . to make sure that this vaccine is on the road and vaccinating people across America as quickly as possible."

Those are the three things he mentioned. Those are the three urgent issues he named as examples: extending unemployment insurance, helping small businesses, and funding vaccine distribution.

Well, I do not question the sincerity of our colleague, who I believe is engaged in these discussions in good faith. But these comments illustrate perfectly a point that Republicans have been making for weeks. These three urgent issues are issues where there is almost total bipartisan consensus, no real disagreement whatsoever.

In fact, the framework for a small, targeted relief package that I put forward last week—something Democrats quickly attacked—would have resolved all three of those subjects. The targeted Republican framework extends unemployment insurance programs that will otherwise expire; it creates an entire second round of the Paycheck Protection Program for the hardest hit small businesses; and it lays groundwork to distribute the vaccines that appear to be on the horizon. Check, check, and check.

The Democratic whip is right to recognize these three subjects as especially urgent because they are especially urgent. That is why Republicans have been trying over and over to get them passed. That is why Republicans have been saying for months that Speaker PELOSI and the Democratic leader should let Congress get out of the places where we already agree rather than holding everything hostage over their most controversial, partisan demands.

But month after month after month, it has been the Democratic leaders who have said that no relief whatsoever can pass, no consensus items can become law unless multiple controversial areas where we don't agree are resolved to the Democrats' liking.

That is why the Democratic leader had every single Senate Democratic vote to filibuster a targeted COVID-19 relief package back in September and again in October. That bill would have taken care of small businesses, unemployment insurance, and vaccine distribution months ago. Senate Democrats blocked it.

I think, if the Senate Democratic leader would allow it, the three things that the Democratic whip mentioned just yesterday—small business aid, reupping unemployment aid, and setting up vaccine distribution—would pass the Senate in a landslide.

A targeted compromise on the most urgent items would pass by a massive bipartisan margin. We could easily put together a whole slew of commonsense policies—including those three and other things, like legal protections that universities and the American Council on Education have been pleading for—bring it to the floor, and pass it.

Everyone knows why this hasn't happened. There is one reason the Speaker of the House and the Democratic leader have spent months tying the most bipartisan, most commonsense policies to their most controversial requests and saying that the country can't get the former unless they get the latter. Their strategy has been all or nothing, so struggling Americans have, of course, gotten nothing.

Well, we are down to the wire. The light at the end of the tunnel is in sight. Operation Warp Speed seems poised to deliver vaccines on a historic, almost miraculous timetable. We have seen some hopeful signs of engagement from our Democratic colleagues, but

we have no reason to think the underlying disagreements about policy are going to evaporate overnight.

Republicans and Democrats do not need to resolve every one of our differences to get badly needed relief out the door. We just need both sides to finally do what Members of Congress do when they are serious about wanting an outcome: Drop the all-or-nothing tactics; drop the hostage-taking; and make law in the many places where we have common ground. That is what the country is counting on. That is how we can do right by the American people before Christmas. Let's get it done.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 912.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Allen Dickerson, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2025.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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 bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Allen Dickerson, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2025.

Mitch McConnell, Pat Roberts, Cory Gardner, Richard Burr, John Thune, Michael B. Enzi, Steve Daines, John Boozman, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Thom Tillis, John Cornyn, Roger F. Wicker, Marco Rubio, Roy Blunt, Joni Ernst, Mike Braun, Mike Crapo.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 913.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Shana M. Broussard, of Louisiana, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2023.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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 bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Shana M. Broussard, of Louisiana, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2023.

Mitch McConnell, Pat Roberts, Cory Gardner, Richard Burr, John Thune, Michael B. Enzi, Steve Daines, John Boozman, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Thom Tillis, John Cornyn, Roger F. Wicker, Marco Rubio, Roy Blunt, Joni Ernst, Mike Braun, Mike Crapo.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 914.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Sean J. Cooksey, of Missouri, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2021.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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 bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Sean J. Cooksey, of Missouri, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2021.

Mitch McConnell, Pat Roberts, Cory Gardner, Richard Burr, John Thune, Michael B. Enzi, Steve Daines, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Boozman, Thom Tillis, John Cornyn, Roger F. Wicker, Marco Rubio, Josh Hawley, Joni Ernst, Mike Braun, Mike Crapo.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume consideration of the Schwartz nomination.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING PAUL SARBANES

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, last night we received the sad news that a former colleague of ours, one of our finest, Paul Sarbanes, had passed away.

While our time in the Senate only overlapped for one term, Senator Sarbanes made a deep impression. Known as the "stealth Senator," he was low-key but extremely effective. He was a leader on a wide-ranging group of issues, from environmental stewardship, to consumer privacy, to anything having to do with his home State of Maryland. He was very soft-spoken, but he had determination like iron and worked and worked and worked on issue after issue until he achieved his goals.

We mourn the passing of this beloved former colleague and this consummate Senator.

CORONAVIRUS

Madam President, now on COVID, everyone knows we are entering the worst stretch of the COVID-19 pandemic. As winter months force more Americans indoors, infections are up, hospitalizations are up, and the number of Americans dying from COVID is steadily and tragically increasing.

The economic fallout from the latest wave of the virus will also be a huge challenge. According to one study, nearly 12 million renters will owe an average of nearly \$6,000 in back rents and utilities in January. Even the conservative U.S. Chamber of Commerce is sounding the alarm about a double-dip recession if Congress does not pass another round of emergency Federal relief before the end of the year.

Unfortunately, our efforts to pass another emergency relief bill through the Senate have been stalled until now for

one reason: The Republican leader has refused to compromise. Again, today we heard the same old song from the Republican leader. His position has not budged since March. First, he put the Senate on pause while the spread of the virus got worse and worse. Then, after pressure mounted, the Republican leader finally decided to put forward a series of bills that comprised only the things the Republicans want.

While the Nation has been clamoring for a bipartisan solution, the Senate, under the leadership of the Republican leader, has only been allowed to vote on partisan Republican proposals, each of which has been sorely inadequate and each of which has contained poison pills designed to ensure the bill's failure.

The Republican leader never mentions those poison pills in his speeches to this Chamber where he excoriates Democrats for refusing to pass "bipartisan legislation" that everyone agrees on. But "bipartisan" does not mean Democrats must agree to whatever the Republican leader wants or whatever issues he picks. "Bipartisan" means both sides sitting down and finding an agreement. We all know that is the case.

We have a Democratic House. They are going to need Democratic votes in the Senate. So Senate Democrats are simply asking the Republican leader to do one thing: Sit down and negotiate.

Now, since March, since Secretary Mnuchin and I negotiated the CARES bill, the Republican leader has constantly refused to sit down with Republicans and negotiate a bipartisan solution. He puts his bill—with no Democratic input—on the floor and says, "Take it or leave it." That is no way—no way—to get things done. It wasn't in April or May or June or July or August or September or November, and it isn't now.

We want the leader to sit down and negotiate so we can come up with a bipartisan proposal that can pass both the House and the Senate. And Speaker PELOSI and I have modified our proposal several times in an effort to meet our Republican counterparts in the middle. Last week, Speaker PELOSI and I went even further and agreed to use a bipartisan bill, crafted by moderate Senators from both sides of the aisle, as a framework for the negotiations. We have not heard the same willingness from the Republican leader.

However, there are some encouraging signs. The bipartisan group of Senators and House Members working on this latest proposal continues to make progress. I was encouraged to see the Senator from Louisiana this weekend say he was hopeful the President would sign such an agreement. Let's use the work of the Gang of 8 as the basis for bipartisan negotiations and compromise.

The bottom line: We have to get something done for the American people before the end of the year. We Democrats have been trying since the

spring, back when Republicans were saying they did "not feel the urgency of acting." I believe those were the leader's words.

Well, it is going to take a sense of urgency now, Mr. Leader, and it is going to take a willingness to give a little, not just to put your bill on the floor and say: Take it or leave it.

As I said, it is encouraging that some Republicans are already on that path. Hopefully, the Republican leader can catch up with the more fairminded Members of his caucus.

NOMINATIONS

Madam President, now, on nominations—another matter. The incoming Biden administration continues to name candidates it will tap to lead Cabinet agencies and other key positions in the Federal Government.

Today, President-Elect Biden introduced his healthcare team, including Dr. Fauci, who will stay on—thank God—as Chief Medical Adviser; Dr. Vivek Murthy to serve as Surgeon General; Dr. Rochelle Walensky to head the CDC; and Xavier Becerra, the attorney general of California, to be the next Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Like most of President-Elect Biden's selections so far, Mr. Becerra's nomination is groundbreaking. He will be the first Latino to ever run the Department of Health and Human Services.

Now, these nominees, once confirmed, will face a monumental task. President-Elect Biden will inherit a once-in-a-generation healthcare crisis—a crisis made worse by the Trump administration's lack of focus, competency, and consistency over the past year.

By naming a deeply experienced and tested team of senior healthcare advisers, President-Elect Biden is getting ready to right the ship and execute a whole-of-government approach to crushing the virus and providing affordable healthcare to all Americans.

As safe and effective vaccines become available over the next year, President-Elect Biden's team will also have to work with States and healthcare providers to get Americans vaccinated.

To state the obvious, healthcare is going to be the No. 1 challenge when the new administration takes office. We are in the middle of a once-in-a-century public health crisis. Accordingly, President-Elect Biden's team should be confirmed swiftly to ensure that no time is lost in the fight against the pandemic.

Regrettably, there is a split screen this week between the seriousness of the incoming Biden administration and the activities of the Republican majority here in the Senate.

On Tuesday, the Republican chairman of the Homeland Security Committee has invited Dr. Jane Orient to give testimony at a hearing in his committee. Dr. Orient is a member of the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons—a benign-sounding name that obscures some dangerous policies.

According to the New York Times, Dr. Orient's association "opposes government involvement in medicine and views Federal vaccine mandates as a violation of human rights."

Dr. Orient herself has expressed skepticism about coronavirus vaccines and continues to hawk hydroxychloroquine as a COVID-19 treatment, following the lead of President Trump, who boosted the drug despite scientific evidence that it is ineffective.

So while President-Elect Biden is nominating experienced, committed public servants to lead the next administration's healthcare policy, the Republican majority is inviting prominent anti-vaxxers to Senate committee hearings—a study in contrasts, to say the least.

After one of the most difficult years in recent memory, we finally have a light at the end of the tunnel in the discovery of several effective and safe vaccines. They are the best chance we have of ending the terrible scourge of this disease and getting our lives back to normal.

And yet, the effectiveness of the vaccine only matters insofar as the number of Americans who are willing to take it. The more Senate Republicans dip their toes into the water of these anti-science, anti-vax conspiracy theories, the more damage it does to our country. Public figures at all levels should be building up confidence in a vaccine, not giving a platform to those who would undermine it.

The Senator from Wisconsin, the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, should revoke his invitation to Dr. Orient.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I came to the floor to talk about some other things, but I just want to say in response to our friend, the Democratic leader, it sounds to me that he has got a case of "do as I say, not as I do" when it comes to COVID-19 relief bills.

If my memory serves me correctly, he has led the effort to block the Senate's consideration of five different COVID-19 relief bills.

Speaker PELOSI has made the incredible statement that "nothing is better than something" when it comes to COVID-19 relief. That is easy to say when you are still getting a paycheck, when you have a job you can go do, and you can provide for your family, and you have access to healthcare.

But for the millions of Americans who have suffered through this pandemic, those are words that sound a lot like Marie Antoinette: "Let them eat cake."

I mention this because I have been around this place long enough to know that, unless you tell people the whole story, too often they believe the talking points and the half story or the incomplete story, like we heard from the Democratic leader.

It is shameful that, after passing four separate COVID-19 relief bills, including the CARES Act, through the end of March on a virtually unanimous basis, that Speaker PELOSI chose to pass a partisan bill out of the House, the Heroes bill, for another \$3 trillion, including things like tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires in New York and San Francisco, unrelated to the COVID-19 relief bill that we needed.

So I applaud the group of bipartisan Senators who have been working now, after the election, to try to come up with the relief rather than kicking this can down the road and leaving people in the lurch during the Christmas holiday season.

And then when it comes to a vaccine, I have no doubt that the incoming administration is going to claim complete credit for producing a vaccine and getting this virus in the rearview mirror.

I understand why they would be tempted to do so, but it is because of the bipartisan action that Congress has taken with this administration through Operation Warp Speed that we have seen our world-class scientists come up with safe and effective, I hope, soon-to-be-certified vaccines by the Food and Drug Administration, and people can begin to start getting vaccinated by the middle of this month. That is a modern-day miracle. We should all be proud of it, but it should not be part of a partisan campaign now after we have had an election on November 3.

I wish our friends would get out of the campaign mode and get into the governing mode. We have got important work we need to do here.

JENNA QUINN LAW

Madam President, part of that is the Jenna Quinn Law. This bipartisan piece of legislation that I introduced with Senator HASSAN over a year and a half ago to help identify and stop child sexual abuse in communities across our country has passed the Senate unanimously but is stuck in the House of Representatives.

Nationwide, there are more than 42,000 survivors of child sex abuse—adults now, 42 million adult survivors of child sexual abuse.

Sadly, these victims often stay silent for days, months, years, even a lifetime. As a result, they and countless other victims continue to be abused. We need to stop this cycle as quickly as possible, and that is why the Jenna Quinn Law is so important.

It is modeled after a 2009 Texas law, which requires teachers, caregivers, and other adults who work with children to receive training on how to identify and report child sexual abuse.

After the Texas law passed in 2009, one study found educators reported child sexual abuse at a rate almost four times greater after the training than they got during their pretraining career.

Jenna Quinn herself tells the story of her own mother saying: If I had just

known that you were showing all the classic symptoms of a victim of child sexual abuse, I would have intervened sooner.

Well, the 2009 Texas law was one of the first to mandate this training, and now more than half of all the States have adopted a form of Jenna's Law. So you may ask: Why do we need to pass a Federal law? Well, the States don't have the funding for the training, and that is what the Jenna Quinn Law provides. It allows current Department of Health and Human Services grant funds to be used for this specialized training.

This bill has received the support of every member of the Senate Health Committee—Republicans and Democrats, not surprisingly—and it has passed the Senate unanimously, but it has been months, and we are still waiting for the House of Representatives to act.

Just last week, House Democrats, under Speaker PELOSI, did find time to act on a bill to decriminalize marijuana; on a bill to deal with large cats, the "Tiger King" bill. But did they have time to provide assistance to small businesses? Did they find time to pass bipartisan COVID-19 relief? Did they find time to pass the Jenna Quinn Law, which I am sure, if put on their suspension calendar, would pass very quickly and go to the President for his signature?

In a move that defies common sense, the chairman of the Education and Labor Committee in the House, Congressman BOBBY SCOTT, is blocking—blocking—the Jenna Quinn Law.

He voted to decriminalize marijuana; he voted to ban the private ownership of big cats, but he won't even let the Jenna Quinn Law receive an up-or-down vote on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Well, if you are confused by the logic of this move, you are not alone, especially because the urgency for this legislation has only grown during the pandemic.

As families have stayed at home as part of the mitigation efforts, their lives have been filled with a range of new stressors. Loss of income, isolation, health anxiety, and the stress of teaching children at home can test even the healthiest families and relationships. But they also put children at a higher risk for abuse and neglect.

In April of this year, nationwide reports of abuse or neglect dropped an average of 40 percent compared to the same time last year. Now, ordinarily, you would say: Well, that is good news. But the reason the reports of abuse and neglect have dropped is because children have not been going to their classrooms, where the teachers who train in identifying these signs and symptoms can see them and help them by intervening.

In 2018, two-thirds of the reports of child abuse were submitted by people who came in contact with children as part of their jobs. I mentioned teach-

ers, counselors, caregivers, also police officers, lawyers, social services, but predominantly teachers who see these children at school.

Teachers, educational professionals, and other support staff at schools, like busdrivers, are responsible for more than half of the reports of child abuse.

But as I said, with children home during the pandemic, out of sight from their teachers and other adults they would otherwise see on a routine basis, abuse is becoming more difficult to identify and report, not because it is not happening but because these children are having to suffer silently, living with, perhaps locked down with, their abuser.

As the stresses of the pandemic and the lack of reporting take a violent toll on our children across the country, it is time for action, not excuses, not decriminalizing marijuana, not a "Tiger King" bill but passing legislation that will actually make their lives better, give them some hope—not action at some time in the future but now.

And there is one person in the House of Representatives who is holding that up right now, and he is Chairman SCOTT.

Children are suffering every day. They are not worried about politics or whether Chairman SCOTT has the leverage he needs to advance a larger partisan bill later on next year. These victims are worried about their own safety. They are worried about: How much longer will it be until some adult identifies my abuse and gets me out of this abusive relationship—gets me out of a living nightmare?

Well, the sort of mindless obstruction we are seeing from Chairman SCOTT in the House exemplifies everything people loathe about Congress—holding up a bill to prevent child sexual abuse as a means to gain political leverage for a bigger partisan bill. It is just shameful. Let's call it what it is—shameful.

It is time for Chairman SCOTT to stop blocking the Jenna Quinn Law so we can provide training to the men and women most likely to stop the cycle of child sexual abuse.

CORONAVIRUS

Madam President, finally, last week on the Senate floor, I spoke briefly about our retiring colleague Senator MIKE ENZI, from Wyoming, and some wisdom he imparted to me shortly after I arrived in the Senate—something he calls the 80-20 rule. As my friend from Wyoming told me, you are never going to agree or disagree with somebody 100 percent of the time, but that doesn't mean you can't get important work done. So instead of just focusing on the 20 percent you cannot agree on, look at the 80 percent you can agree on.

I hope all of my colleagues will remember this formula for success in the coming days as we work to deliver another round of coronavirus relief for the American people. It is clear that we are never going to agree 100 percent of the time on what that bill should

look like, but I bet we can agree on 80 percent, and we ought to get that 80 percent done.

We all believe additional funding for our schools is necessary to keep our students and teachers healthy and kids on track for a good education; that American workers who had the rug pulled out from under them earlier this year deserve additional support; that a second round of job-saving Paycheck Protection Program funds would help even more workers and small businesses; and that another investment in vaccine distribution is essential to bringing this pandemic to an end.

Last week, Leader MCCONNELL announced progress in negotiations to pass another bill by the end of the year. He has spoken with the President's team and the Speaker, and there are hopeful signs. There appears to be a path forward on this legislation that could clear both Chambers and receive the signature of the President, and I hope we will follow that path to a constructive conclusion.

As I said last week, the best Christmas present we can give the American people would be to work together in a bipartisan way to provide that relief. We need an outcome, and to get there is going to take compromise. It is going to take the 80-20 rule.

This process requires input and agreement from our colleagues in the Senate, the House, and the White House, as does all legislation. But my constituents—and, I dare say, all Americans—are fed up with the dysfunction they see and the partisanship that is for no real purpose that has delayed this COVID-19 relief bill for months.

It is time to reach an agreement and deliver yet another round of coronavirus relief for the American people.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

NEZ PERCE-CLEARWATER NATIONAL FORESTS

Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, I rise today to highlight some meaningful progress underway on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests to improve the health of these forests. These collaborative efforts are showing progress, and they are an example of where we can go nationally.

Collaboration brings results. I have been a longtime champion of collaboration to address public lands management disputes, as collaborative processes are good for the environment and good for natural-resource based economies. Collaborative problem-solving is a key way to ensure that all voices are heard and long-term solutions are crafted.

Working together through collaboration does not require a sacrifice of principles, but it does require earnest negotiations with respect for ideas from all perspectives and a willingness to work to understand each other's objectives. Inevitably, at several points along the collaborative path, there are strong disagreements. However, par-

ticipants' refusal to quit is a key attribute of successful collaborative efforts.

One of the greatest benefits of collaboration is that it enables the achievement of solutions that are better than the status quo for all stakeholders. Such solutions are better for the environment and the economy. Through collaboration, participants can actually achieve their objectives and in ways that benefit the entire community.

The work on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests is a great example of the benefits of collaborative efforts. The Clearwater Basin Collaborative, or CBC, as we call it, which was officially launched 12 years ago, has had an important role in furthering discussions about the management of the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests. Nez Perce Tribal representatives, representatives of Federal and State agencies, county commissioners, local communities, timber companies, conservation groups, and other stakeholders make up the CBC's Working Group, which accommodates a diverse array of viewpoints and objectives.

I met with members of the predecessor group, called the Konkolville Collaborative, and welcomed the opportunity to be a part of the CBC's official launch in 2008. I track the group's progress through dedicating a member of my staff to being part of its discussions focused on resolving longstanding concerns and achieving land management decisions and fostering communication among different interest groups. The remarkable landscape it works to enhance encompasses forestlands providing habitat for treasured wildlife and anadromous fish species; resources for local communities, including timber, livestock grazing, and mining; and natural carbon sinks that help our planet.

The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests span 4 million acres. Three rivers flow through the forests, providing important water sources, outstanding fishing, and other recreational opportunities. It is truly a remarkable place, and the group's work is far from easy, as there is a lot at stake.

The good news is that we are hearing reports of remarkable achievements being made on the Forests. The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests have received three significant recognitions this year alone that highlight cooperative restoration work: a Regional Forester's Award for fostering partnership and volunteerism; a Chief's Award for delivering benefits to the public; and an Undersecretary's Award for customer service for the forests' Historic Routes Project.

Through the Historic Routes Project, the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests dedicated approximately \$1 million of retained receipts from stewardship contracts to improve water quality through historically sensitive maintenance along three historic roadways: the Lolo Motorway, the Elk City

Wagon Road, and the Magruder Road, which attract visitors from all over the country. Project leaders, recognizing the importance of these routes to the local economy and historical significance, have partnered with local groups and the University of Idaho to include digital interpretation that is accessible even in locations without internet service. The project has also been supported through the Secure Rural Schools Resources Advisory Committee to assist with the maintenance.

Stewardship contracts have also been used on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests to enable the Forest Service to accomplish vegetation and watershed restoration. By leveraging this program with other partnerships and funding sources, the forests are able to have a truly integrated restoration program. Stewardship contracts have enabled fuels and weed treatment, watershed protection and restoration, road maintenance, and enhancements such as the removal of wire fencing to help wildlife.

A total of 536 miles of streams have been restored on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests, resulting in the forests being ranked fourth nationwide in miles of streams restored. The forests have a strong partnership with the Nez Perce Tribe, which contributes greatly to its watershed accomplishments. At the same time, priorities of much needed restoration of landscapes, including water quality improvements, are also providing a supply of raw materials to our local mills. In fact, the forests are the fifth in the Nation in providing wood products for purchase.

More work is underway to address significant challenges, but this is the direction we need to continue to go in delivering long-term results. I commend all those involved in this effort for their hard and exemplary work improving our treasured landscapes.

Also, a Good Neighbor Authority program coordinated by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests and the Idaho Department of Lands was recognized with the 2017 Regional Forester Awards. Through the program, forest management has supported fuels reduction and watershed restoration. Further, the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests recently signed a Good Neighbor Authority agreement with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. This will enable the forests and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to work more seamlessly as they collaborate on projects to enhance wildlife habitat such as aspen restoration.

Statewide, the Idaho Department of Lands reports that the agency is utilizing Good Neighbor Authority to partner with national forests in Idaho to expedite projects focused on fuels reduction, forest health improvements, and watershed health. According to an ILD summary from January of this year, the program has enabled the treatment of 4,800 acres through 50

service contracts, at a total value of over \$3 million to the private sector, to treat weed infestation, reduce fuels, complete road repairs, and support project planning and monitoring. Other collaborative efforts have laid strong groundwork or follow in the footsteps of collaborative work such as this.

In Idaho we have succeeded with public lands projects such as the Owyhee Initiative and are at hard at work in others, such as the Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative, the Payette Forest Coalition, the Boise Forest Coalition, and others, including our Governor's Shared Stewardship Task Force. I also look forward to the soon-to-be completed recommendations of the Governor's Salmon Workgroup.

Federal policy must empower collaboration and forest health. As Senators and shared stewards of these natural resources, we must continuously work to ensure Federal statute and policy empower collaborative efforts and forest health projects. In 2003, I was proud to work with my congressional colleagues, including Senator RON WYDEN of Oregon and many others, to enact the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, or HFRA, to help provide the U.S. Forest Service with the tools needed to do the necessary work on the ground to restore our forests and help reduce the threat of a catastrophic wildfire to our communities and ecosystems. The HFRA was designed to encourage fuel reduction efforts, protect old-growth forests, enhance water quality, promote community-based land management and public involvement in forest management, and address insect and disease problems. The HFRA has promoted stewardship contracting projects which incorporate public-private partnerships, emphasizing more localized forest management.

In the years since the enactment of the HFRA, Congress has enacted additional legislation to advance forest health. For example, in the 2014 farm bill we included permanent authority for stewardship contracting and the authorization of Good Neighbor Authority. Good Neighbor Authority expanded the Federal Government's ability to partner with State foresters on restoration projects, including bark beetle treatments across State and Federal boundaries. Subsequently, the 2018 farm bill included an expansion of Good Neighbor Authority, credited with increasing the pace and scale of forest restoration projects across Idaho. The 2018 farm bill also, importantly, included a 10-year reauthorization of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, which has enabled the expansion of active collaborative land-use groups in Idaho. The program encourages large-scale—that is 50,000-plus acres—collaborative, science-based forest restoration projects in a way that encourages environmental and economic sustainability.

The U.S. Forest Service reported that in the first 10 years of the pro-

gram, the CFLRP opportunities brought together more than 420 organizations to engage in local collaboratives, and CFLRP projects treated 3.8 million acres to reduce wildfire risk.

The CFLRP has supported collaborative work of the Clearwater Basin Collaborative and the Nez Perce-Clearwater Forests to restore conditions within the 1.4 million-acre Selway-Middle Fork ecosystem through stream improvements, the replacement of culverts preventing fish passage, road and trail maintenance, and the reduction of wildfire fuel loads.

Also, the reauthorized Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program has two newly approved projects in Idaho, with one in each region. Region 1 encompasses the Panhandle National Forest, and in Region 4, it encompasses the Payette and Boise National Forests.

We cannot let up in making progress on wildfires. The severely smoke-clogged skies this fire season made the impacts of the fires that have decimated wildlands and communities for years nearly unescapable.

As we think about the lives and livelihoods lost to wildfires, we must continue to work to enact bipartisan forest management reform to build on the progress made in recent years to ensure Federal land agencies have the tools they need to protect communities from deadly wildfires by improving the health of our forests.

Bipartisan legislation pending in this Senate would increase the active management of Federal forests, cut red-tape, reduce frivolous litigation, and advance fire risk reduction. Senators STEVE DAINES, of Montana, and DIANNE FEINSTEIN, of California, worked across party lines for months to negotiate the details of the bipartisan Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act.

Enactment of sensible, bipartisan legislation such as this, which is also cosponsored by myself and my fellow colleague from Idaho, Senator JIM RISCH, can better enable land managers to reduce wildfire risk and respond effectively to an increasingly virulent wildfire reality. This will build on the successful enactment of bipartisan legislation to enable Federal agencies to respond to wildfires as they would to other natural disasters and end the practice of fire borrowing.

Forests make up 39 percent of the land in my home State of Idaho. They are key to air and water quality and sustain wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities. They support communities through wood and paper product jobs and recreation dollars. They are the backdrop and the means for an unparalleled quality of life. Their vitality hinges on their effective management.

I am encouraged by the achievements on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests, and I urge continued collaborative efforts to address often contentious but necessary natural resource

challenges and the enactment of Federal law that bolsters these collaborative efforts for the betterment of all our communities.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

CHINA

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, over the past few months, there have been many of us in this Chamber who have taken Big Tech to task over their shady and biased business practices. In more than one hearing, we have grilled them on the privacy, censorship, and antitrust concerns that have allowed us to keep these CEOs in the hot seat, and that grilling has taken place by those of us on either side of the aisle.

These are big, big problems, and they are not going to disappear at the end of this Congress. These are problems that are going to be around.

But one of the advantages of having these companies, like Facebook and Twitter and Google, living in our phones and in our homes is that it is much harder for oppressive governments and global bad actors to hide their crimes from the rest of the world.

Just last year, about this time, the freedom fighters in Hong Kong—and this is a poster that I used on the floor just about this time, December 9, 2019, and it shows the freedom fighters in Hong Kong. It shows how they were making their case: "We do not want to become like China."

These freedom fighters in Hong Kong captured our attention when they filled the streets and demanded an end to the Chinese Communist Party's terrible crackdowns on free speech and expression. While the coverage in the 24-hour news cycle definitely made an impact, it was the millions of tweets and Facebook posts and videos and blog posts that turned their movement into a collective global outcry for an end to violence and terror in Hong Kong.

You see, people saw what was happening there. They saw it in realtime. Even if they didn't fully understand the politics behind these protests, they knew that the disproportionate response by the Chinese Government to stamp out these protests was wrong. As those posts flowed out of Hong Kong, support flowed right back in, and having spoken with many of these brave activists, it really meant the world to them that they were hearing from us.

While all of this was happening, something else—some countermeasures, if you will—was flowing from Beijing. It was a message of total capitulation sent by corporations, sports organizations, the mainstream media, and even powerful national and world leaders. They were all trying to keep the peace on behalf of their own self-interests, but as the days and weeks passed by, their blinders became more and more obvious.

By that time, the online activist community had put the Chinese Communist Party's crimes on full display.

What started as a debate on free speech and political autonomy morphed into a full indictment of the Chinese Communist Party's crimes against humanity, against the Uighurs in Xinjiang, in Tibet, and Inner Mongolia, and all across Mainland China.

Thanks to internet freedom efforts made possible by the Open Technology Fund, tweets and videos describing the Chinese Communist Party's intolerance of dissent escaped the Great Firewall and made its way into Western news feeds.

The spread of the coronavirus tore away the veil covering Beijing's corrupt relationship with the World Health Organization and other international organizations and revealed their scandalous coverup of the virus's origins—all that truth right on our phones, right on our iPads and computer screens and on every screen in the house.

Unfortunately, for the millions suffering under the horrors of communism, truth didn't win the day. The people with the most responsibility to speak up stayed silent because they were fearful of retaliation. It was too politically charged, too economically risky. Someone might take their criticisms the wrong way, and, well, we can't have that now, can we?

I know from personal experience what it is like to have the Chinese Communist Party and their allies retaliate against you. Once you speak up, you are going to get it from all sides.

Just last week, a member of the Chinese state media—for all intents and purposes, I would suggest this is a propaganda minister for the Chinese Communist Party. Well, he decided that he had had enough of what we are doing here in Washington to expose Chinese aggression and fired off a series of vile, sexist tweets while conspicuously avoiding the issue at hand. It sounds fairly familiar: Attack the person; attack the messenger.

The thing is, he was just mirroring the tactics used by his government. Beijing is all too happy to prey upon the ignorance of their massive online audience and encourage accusations of racism or xenophobia as the only acceptable responses to evidence documenting their own racist, repressive politics. That, right there, is how you end up with repressive regimes like the one in China gaining so much power on the global stage when those who should know better allow their adversaries to cow them into silence.

I appreciate the importance of diplomacy, but diplomacy is meaningless without consequences. Activists, by their very nature, rise and fall based on their willingness to speak truth to power when the most influential among us allow evil regimes to escape those consequences.

Today, I call on my colleagues to follow their example and use their work in this Chamber to speak truth to power about the crimes of the Chinese Communist Party. We no longer have

any excuse not to. If you want proof, pull out your phones and listen to what activists in Hong Kong, in Taiwan, and in Mainland China are telling you—or better yet, listen to what some of your colleagues are telling you.

Hong Kong activist Joshua Wong currently sits in jail for the crime of criticizing his government. I repeat this: Hong Kong activist, a young freedom fighter, Joshua Wong, is in jail because he criticized the Chinese Communist party. He criticized his government. His sentencing barely managed a blip on the radar here.

Another Hong Kong activist, Jimmy Lai, was denied bail during his own prosecution specifically because his online newspaper revealed the truths of the Chinese Communist Party's chokehold on their own people. The CCP cut off access to his corporate accounts and those of his employees. So much for Hong Kong's free press. Jimmy Lai and Joshua Wong live in Hong Kong.

In June, the Senate passed a resolution condemning the CCP's repression of speech and expression in Hong Kong. These protests are still happening. Authoritarian crackdowns are still happening. We must keep speaking about this.

In Xinjiang, CCP forces are systematically targeting and eliminating the Uighur Muslim population through mass surveillance, population control, and incarceration in internment camps. Yes, you heard me—internment camps. It should make your skin crawl to hear that today, in 2020, this is happening.

Last month, I joined my colleagues Senator CORNYN and Senator MENENDEZ in supporting a bipartisan resolution to finally recognize that what the Chinese Government is doing in Xinjiang constitutes a genocide.

If you are looking for a reason to start speaking out, I can't think of a better way to get started. Speak up on that. Support this resolution, which would not only urge the White House to take action against Beijing but also urge national governments and organizations to get their heads out of the sand and tear away, piece by piece, China's disastrous influence over the global political economy, which is highlighted by the success of the Communist Party's Belt and Road Initiative.

I will add that I was thrilled today with Secretary Pompeo's tweet regarding his once again reupping the countries of concern under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998. China is on this list, as well they should be, as they continue to infringe on religious liberty, and they do engage in systematic, ongoing, egregious religious freedom violations. They are doing it every day, and the world is watching.

I tell you, I could monopolize this floor for the next week and lay out every opportunity we have to stand up for the cause of freedom and speak

truth to power about the crimes of the Chinese Communist Party.

Here is a white paper that I unveiled earlier this year. There are over 100 specific paths toward how we as a nation unraveled the relationship that we have right now with China. The paper is only 52 pages long. It is a short version. I encourage one and all to take a look at it and to think about how it is that we got to this point where an influential government, active in many major international bodies, including, as of next year, China being in the U.N. Human Rights Council—how can this government perpetrate a genocide against minorities and get away with it because of the appalling cowardice of those who bear witness and choose to do nothing.

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. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOZMAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ENZI. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum also be waived.

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

Mr. ENZI. I ask unanimous consent to start the vote now.

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

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 Stephen Sidney Schwartz, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Mitch McConnell, Joni Ernst, John Boozman, James E. Risch, Mike Rounds, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Crapo, Mitt Romney, John Barrasso, Shelley Moore Capito, Pat Roberts, Thom Tillis, Cindy Hyde-Smith, David Perdue, Lindsey Graham, Kevin Cramer, Tim Scott.

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 Stephen Sidney Schwartz, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years, 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. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator

from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 48, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 254 Ex.]

YEAS—48

Alexander	Enzi	Murkowski
Barrasso	Ernst	Paul
Blackburn	Fischer	Portman
Blunt	Gardner	Risch
Boozman	Graham	Roberts
Braun	Grassley	Romney
Burr	Hawley	Rubio
Capito	Hoeven	Sasse
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Collins	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Johnson	Shelby
Cotton	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cramer	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Young

NAYS—46

Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Bennet	Jones	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schumer
Booker	Kelly	Shaheen
Brown	King	Sinema
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Udall
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	
Heinrich	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—6

Cardin	Loeffler	Rounds
Harris	Perdue	Toomey

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 48, the nays are 46.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, 2 weeks ago, I stood in this same position and gave remarks to my colleagues about the importance of, even though we can't do everything, that we do something. It seems to be too often that the way the Senate has operated is that unless we can do everything everyone wants, we do nothing. I encouraged us to try to figure out what it is we can agree on and address that legislatively and save the issues we don't agree on for later.

The challenge that I presented was the circumstance of the consequences of COVID-19, the difficulties that Americans—Kansans—are facing, and the importance of our completing our work in regard to an additional response to try to help the economy and to make sure people are healthy and know that they are healthy.

We seem to be making progress in regard to that desire to address the needs of Americans. While my complaint or

concern 2 weeks ago was “we don't have to do everything, we can do something,” it appears that we are going to do something, which is really important.

Now, I would raise the issue of timing. It is very discouraging to me to return to Washington, DC, to learn that the continuing resolution, which expires on Friday, is to be extended until next Friday at a time in which Americans have little ability to wait, at least, to know what they are going to be able to expect.

Small businesses, individuals, employees, employers all need the certainty, and every day that we are unable to accomplish what we can agree on is another day in which those Americans, those workers, those businessowners don't know what they face. Christmas ought to be a time, the holiday season ought to be a time for expectations and joy and comfort, and yet what we are doing here by this continued delay is creating uncertainty which creates great challenges.

The mental health and well-being of Kansans and Americans is at stake here. Again, my guess is that whatever we could agree on next week, we could agree on this week, so I would encourage my colleagues and me to redouble our efforts, not only to do what we can do, but to do it in a timely enough fashion that people get the benefit.

I think of those who work in hospitals in Kansas, those who care for people who are suffering from the symptoms of COVID. We need to make certain that we provide them the necessary personal protection equipment; that we need to have the necessary testing; that every hospital, every clinic, every doctor has the resources necessary to care for those who are ill today. That is something that can't wait.

When it comes to the economy, too many businesses, retail establishments, motels, restaurants, venues, theaters, the uncertainty that we are creating that every day goes by in which they don't know whether Congress is going to respond to their needs is a day in which we may lose another business, we may lose another person's employment.

The request is that we move more quickly than what we have done to date now, that we seem to be zeroing in on a compromise agreement, a bipartisan agreement. That is a piece of good news, but every day that we delay the outcome, the vote, the support the American people and Kansans need is a day in which more harm is done. It is a time in which uncertainty exists. While we continue to have our debates and discussions, that uncertainty is creating not only economic problems but potentially loss of life as well.

This place is slow to respond, and I would encourage us to be quicker in our response than what we have been to date. People are struggling, and they need our help.

I also would say that too many Kansans have died—people that I have

known—have died from COVID. This is a very damaging disease. I would encourage Kansans and Americans to do the personally responsible things and protect themselves, to wear the masks, to socially distance. We cannot afford another shutdown.

Every day that goes by in which we are not providing the opportunities for businesses to stay open and employees to be employed, particularly in rural America—the places, Mr. President, that you and I come from—if we lose a business to COVID, that business is unlikely to return. If we don't provide the necessary support for hospitals and healthcare delivery systems—there isn't a hospital in Kansas, if it closes its doors today because of COVID, is going to open tomorrow when COVID is behind us.

The deaths that I mentioned, in many instances, have been the community leaders, the people who have made a difference in communities across Kansas. Every life has value, and every life has meaning. We want this death to end.

For purposes of our economy and purposes of life and death, it is time for the U.S. Senate to act—not another week delay, not another 2 weeks of unknowing—but let's reach our conclusion, let's come together and find solutions and provide hope to my constituents in Kansas, yours in Arkansas, and the people of America.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

REMEMBERING ENSIGN JOSHUA KALEB WATSON

Mr. JONES. Mr. President, 1 year ago yesterday, on December 6, 2019, a terrorist attack on the Naval Air Station Pensacola killed three American servicemen.

While it is appropriate and it has been done to honor each of these men, I rise today with a solemn purpose of honoring and commemorating the life, service, and patriotism of one in particular: Navy ENS Joshua Kaleb Watson of Enterprise, AL, whose promising life and career were tragically cut short in the terrorist attack a year and 1 day ago yesterday.

Kaleb was posthumously honored last Friday, receiving the Purple Heart in a ceremony in Pensacola. I really regret that I could not go and that I was unable to join his family, but there was also a wreath-laying ceremony at Building 633 where Kaleb was shot and a candlelight vigil there last night. I know that all were solemn occasions for the Navy, for the family, and for America.

Kaleb was a rising star. A recent graduate of the Naval Academy, Kaleb had dreamed of becoming a Navy pilot and had reported to Pensacola for flight training the week of Veterans Day. Kaleb was described as a natural leader, a person who put others first and strived to bring out the best in them.

At the Naval Academy, Kaleb was a small arms instructor, wrestling coach,

and captain of the rifle team. In fact, under his leadership, much to the chagrin of a couple folks in this body, like Senator REED, the Academy's rifle team beat Army for the first time in a decade.

Ben Watson, Kaleb's father, said to me once that Kaleb's mission was to confront evil, to bring the fight to them wherever it took him. He was willing to risk his life for his country. Kaleb did confront evil that day, and he made the ultimate sacrifice.

Unfortunately, that was not how Kaleb intended to serve his country. It was not what Kaleb's parents expected when he joined the Navy. Kaleb's father put it rather bluntly:

We never thought he would die in Florida.

Kaleb Watson was the officer on deck at the Naval Air Station Pensacola on the morning of December 6, 2019. Consequently, he was one of the first people the shooter encountered. Kaleb was shot at least five times that day. Heavily wounded, he made his way out to flag down first responders, gave them an accurate description of the shooter that ultimately led to the shooter being killed. Unfortunately, later that day, Kaleb died of his wounds while in the hospital.

The Navy conducted an investigation into the incident and concluded the primary cause of the attack was the Saudi shooter's self-radicalization. However, the report also goes on to note numerous deficiencies in many areas, some of which contributed to the attack and others which could have deterred the attack or mitigated the consequences. In other words, things could have been different that day. Things should have been different that day.

We lost two other young men, Airman Mo Haitham from Florida and Airman Apprentice Cameron Walters of Georgia, and 11 more individuals were wounded. That has happened far too many times. Too many Americans have lost their lives to shooters on U.S. bases on U.S. soil.

The Pensacola attack was the second shooting at a military base in 3 days. On December 3, 2019, a shooting at the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard in Hawaii left two people dead and a third wounded. There have been several other shootings at U.S. military installations, including a mass shooting in 2009 at Fort Hood in Killeen, TX. That shooting claimed 13 lives and left another 30 injured.

Five years later, another shooting happened at Fort Hood when a gunman went on a shooting spree, killing 3 people and injuring 14 before killing himself. In 2013, 12 workers at the Washington Navy Yard right here in our Nation's Capital were killed by a military contractor, who was later killed by security officials. In 2015, two military installations in Chattanooga, TN, were attacked by a gunman who killed four people before he was shot by police.

There have been investigative reports about all of those shootings, and there have been recommendations in each

one of the reports. Everybody shook their head and said: We have got to do better. We can't continue to allow this to happen.

What we see from the Pensacola report we received just recently is that many of those recommendations were never followed, especially with regard to planning, training, and assessment of response plans for situations just like the one that occurred in Pensacola, FL. That is simply inexcusable.

We have young men and women every year, every day, every week, every month that volunteer to put their lives on the line for this country, never dreaming that their life may be put on the line within the security of the confines of a U.S. military base on U.S. soil—not overseas, not as part of some overseas terrorist attack, but right here where they should be most secure.

Ben Watson and his wife Sheila have made it their mission to do everything they can to prevent losing more of our sons and daughters in this way. I think this body ought to do the same.

Every year, we have nominations. We make nominations, and we get the appointments back, sending those young men and women to the academies who will then go to those bases. We have a responsibility for that, as well as our overall responsibility to the men and women in uniform.

This year, I asked for—and the conference committee included in the final version of the NDAA—language requiring the Secretary of Defense to implement, within 90 days, all applicable security and emergency response recommendations to protect our military installations and language requiring the Secretary of Defense to ensure that each installation conducts or develops a plan to conduct live emergency response training with first responders.

At a couple of hearings, including one just last week, I asked Navy leadership at an Armed Services Readiness Subcommittee hearing for their commitment. It is not the first time I had brought it up, but I knew it was going to be the last hearing, and I knew that this NDAA was hopefully going to include this language, but sometimes, the language is just not enough. I asked for their commitment to ensure that these long overdue steps are taken and accomplished. They, of course, gave me those assurances and that commitment.

There are thousands of important provisions in the NDAA that hopefully will come to the floor very soon, but none—none—of those provisions are more important than those that ensure we do everything we can to keep our servicemembers and their families, who live and work on our bases, safe from attacks like these.

As the Navy itself said in the Pensacola report, talking about security manning—and I quote from the report, The “[Department of the Navy] must abandon minimum manning thresholds designed to protect physical assets and to meet ineffective response times. In-

stead, installations must be manned to rapidly respond with a preponderance of force at any time to preserve our most precious asset, our personnel. Increased security force manning enables presence, deterrence, assurance, and enhanced response”—our most precious asset, our personnel.

Well, as a father of three and grandfather of two, I understand how precious our children are to our families.

As a member of the Armed Services Committee for the past 2 years, I have seen firsthand how precious our men and women in uniform are to this country, and I have seen this body rise to the occasion to understand our fiduciary responsibilities that we have to those men and women who protect and defend us every day.

I had the privilege of visiting with some of the folks in Afghanistan and Iraq and working with many more here in the United States. Wherever they are serving, we owe them our best because we owe them our freedom.

I want to thank the Watson family—Ben, Sheila, their son Adam—for their patriotism in supporting Kaleb in his dream to become a Navy pilot, and I want to extend again my sincerest condolences for his untimely death.

With the Watsons, however, I want to encourage this body to hold the Navy to the commitments that they made to me last week and to insist that the entire Department of Defense follow its recommendations for protecting our military installations from within—protect them from future attacks from within.

Although I will be leaving this body in a few weeks, I urge all of my colleagues to take up the baton to do our congressional oversight duty like our lives depend on it because there are lives which depend on it, and if their lives depend on it, our lives depend upon on it.

Everyone should take up that mantle. Everyone should do all that they can to preserve and protect the American service men and women who protect us. They are our most precious asset, our personnel.

For their sakes and for their families, let's do this thing. Let's get this NDAA passed and then hold them to it in this next Congress.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). The majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that not withstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Simington nomination at noon tomorrow. I further ask that postcloture time with respect to the Schwartz and Simington nominations expire at 4 p.m. tomorrow and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order listed. Finally, if any of the nominations are confirmed, 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.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and 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.

TRIBUTE TO DAYMOND YOUNG

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, after more than seven decades, a Kentucky family in Hancock County will finally lay their hero to rest. Last year, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, DPAA, identified the remains of Navy Fireman 2nd Class Martin Daymond Young. Soon, he will be on his way home.

Stationed aboard the USS *Oklahoma*, Daymond was killed during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. This Kentuckian, who would have turned 100 this year, will be buried beside his twin sister in Lewisport next May. Today, on the 79th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attacks, I would like to pay tribute to Daymond for his bravery and sacrifice in defense of our Nation.

In June 1940, 3 months before President Franklin Roosevelt authorized the first peacetime draft, Daymond volunteered for the Navy. He joined millions of men and women of the “greatest generation” who signed up to protect our country in uniform. According to Daymond’s niece, he was thrilled to be stationed in Hawaii.

On the morning of December 7, 1941, Daymond was aboard the *Oklahoma*, which was moored at Ford Island. As the attack began, Japanese aerial torpedoes pummeled the ship. Its port side tore open, forcing the 27,500-ton battleship to capsize and sink. It took Daymond and 428 of his crewmates into the water below.

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor killed more than 2,400 Americans and launched the United States into the Second World War. Over the next 4 years, heroes were forged on the battlefield and at home as our country defeated the forces of tyranny in defense of the American way of life.

In the following years, the Navy attempted to identify the remains of those killed on the *Oklahoma*. Unfortunately, the vast majority couldn’t be accounted for and were buried together in 46 plots at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, also known as the Punchbowl.

Then 5 years ago, the Pentagon contacted Daymond’s family as they exhumed the USS *Oklahoma* unknowns. The Navy used DNA samples to identify Daymond’s remains and give his

family the opportunity for proper burial in Kentucky. By order of our Governor, flags across the Bluegrass State will fly at half staff on that day in honor of a true American hero.

Today, over 1,300 Kentucky servicemembers remain unaccounted for by the DPAA. We have never forgotten these patriots, and we will continue searching to bring them home. I am grateful for the ongoing efforts of the DPAA to bring closure to more families like Daymond’s so their loved ones can receive the tribute they earned.

On behalf of my Senate colleagues, I would like to send our sincere condolences to Daymond’s family and express our thanks for his brave service to our Nation. We are proud this Kentucky hero is finally coming home.

Mr. President, on Veterans Day, the Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer published an article about Daymond Young’s identification. I ask unanimous consent the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, Nov. 11, 2020]

COMING HOME: REMAINS OF WWII VETERAN DAYMOND YOUNG WILL BE BURIED IN LEWISPORT NEXT YEAR

(By Renee Beasley)

Layman Hawkins and his siblings grew up hearing one uncle’s name often.

But they never had the privilege of meeting Martin Daymond Young because he died in 1941 at the age of 21.

Hawkins’ mom—Young’s twin sister—did everything in her power to keep her brother’s memory alive as long as she lived.

At birth, Young and his twin sister shared the same initials: MDY for Mary Daisy Young and Martin Daymond Young.

Everyone called them Daisy and Daymond. If they were still alive, they would be 100 years old now.

“(Young) was not a stranger to us,” said Hawkins, 76, of Lewisport. “Mom talked about him all the time.”

Hawkins remembers a military photograph of his uncle always hung in his mom’s living room—like a badge of honor.

“It’s kinda like we knew him, but we didn’t know him,” Hawkins said. “. . . His memory was with us all the time.”

PEARL HARBOR

According to Navy records, Young, who grew up in the Hancock County village of Dukes, filled out his application to join the U.S. Navy on June 26, 1940. His application was approved on Aug. 14 that year.

The Navy assigned Young, 21, a Fireman 2nd Class, to the battleship USS *Oklahoma*, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, on Dec. 7, 1941.

During the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor that day, torpedoes pounded the *Oklahoma*, quickly capsizing it. Young was among 429 crew members who perished aboard the battleship.

After decades of being one of the *Oklahoma*’s “unknowns,” the Navy identified Young’s remains last year. He will be laid to rest in Lewisport—beside his twin sister, Daisy Young Hawkins—on May 15, 2021.

“He was so excited about going to Hawaii,” said Joyce Nall of Owensboro.

Young was her uncle, too. She is Young’s oldest living relative and the only one with memories of him.

“I was just a little girl when he went into the Navy,” Nall said. “I remember him being my big, handsome uncle.”

After reaching Hawaii aboard the *Oklahoma*, Young sent Nall a little grass skirt as a gift.

Nall, 84, has held onto it all these years.

THE PUNCHBOWL

Between December 1941 and June 1944, Navy personnel recovered the bodies of the *Oklahoma*’s deceased crew. They were interred in the Halawa and Nu’uanu cemeteries.

In 1947, the crew’s remains were moved to the Central Identification Laboratory at Schofield Barracks. Staff there could only confirm the identities of 35 men at that time.

Later, the *Oklahoma* unknowns were buried in 46 plots at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, known as the Punchbowl, and they were classified as non-recoverable.

In 2015, however, their remains were exhumed again for analysis and possible identification.

Department of Defense personnel contacted Hawkins about a year later, asking for the addresses of family members so the military could collect DNA samples.

When Young’s remains were identified last year, the family had hoped to conduct his burial on May 11, which would have been his 100th birthday. However, COVID-19 threw a wrench in those plans. The family opted for a May 2021 date instead.

The military’s identification process—even decades after the bombing of Pearl Harbor—impresses Nall.

“To me, it’s amazing they have gone through this elaborate process,” she said.

BURIAL

Gov. Andy Beshear recently sent Young’s family a message, saying he would request flags across the commonwealth to fly at half staff on the day Young’s remains are buried.

Also, Rolling Thunder motorcycle club, an advocacy group that seeks accountability for prisoners of war and those missing in action, notified the family that its members will meet the airplane in Owensboro and escort Young’s casket to the Lewisport cemetery.

“I appreciate the way everyone has treated us,” Hawkins said. “To us, this is a big deal.”

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee’s intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
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. 20-78 concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Australia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$132.2 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,

HEIDI H. GRANT,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 20-78

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
Other \$132.2 million.
Total \$132.3 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
None.

Non-MDE: M825A1 155mm White Phosphorous projectile munitions, M782 Multi-Option Fuze for Artillery, M762A1 electronic-timed fuzes, M231 and M232A2 propelling charges, percussion primers, technical publications and books, technical data for operational maintenance, technical assistance and services, and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (AT-B-ULC).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: AT-B-UGN.

(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: December 4, 2020.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Government of Australia—155mm
Ammunition and Accessories

The Government of Australia has requested to buy M825A1 155mm White Phosphorous projectile munitions, M782 Multi-Option Fuze for Artillery, M762A1 electronic-timed fuzes, M231 and M232A2 propelling charges, percussion primers, technical publications and books, technical data for operational maintenance, technical assistance and services, and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated program cost is \$132.2 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.

This purchase will enable effective training and extend the Australian Defence Force's (ADF) capability to conduct combined operations. The ADF already has these rounds in service, and is trained and equipped to use them. Australia will not have any difficulty absorbing these weapons 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 determined at a later date. The material could potentially be sourced from a combination of DoD stocks and new procurement. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of 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. 20-78

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The M825A1 is a 155mm artillery projectile which utilizes a payload of white phosphorous impregnated felt to produce a smoke screen at a target location. The Government of Australia has stated their commitment to use these rounds exclusively for its intended purpose, which is to provide signaling and to obscure enemy visibility on the battlefield.

2. The M782 Multi-Option Fuze for Artillery (MOFA). The M782 is a selectable multi-option fuze that provides height of burst capability to artillery rounds. The M782 is a sensitive military technology and has been approved for release to the Government of Australia.

3. Also included in this case are propelling charges and other fuzes that enable the effective use of the M825A1 end item. While these technologies are controlled military hardware they do not represent a significant technology transfer risk.

4. The highest level of classified information associated with the sale of this equipment is SECRET.

5. If a technologically advanced adversary obtains knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures or equivalent systems that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

6. A determination has been made that Australia can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This proposed sale is necessary to further the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

7. All defense articles and services listed on this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of Australia.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed

in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
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. 20-87 concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$280 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,

HEIDI H. GRANT,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 20-87

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: Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO).

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$0 million.
Other \$280 million.
Total \$280 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: TECRO has requested to buy a Field Information Communications System (FICS), consisting of:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-MDE: One hundred fifty-four (154) Communications Nodes (CN) with S-788 Type III shelter; twenty-four (24) Communication Relays with S-788 Type III shelter; eight (8) Network Management Systems (NMS) with S-788 Type III shelter; Basic Issue Items (BII); program management support; verification testing; system technical support; transportation; spare and repair parts; communication support equipment; communication equipment integration; tools and test equipment; personnel training and training equipment; initial repair and return program; Additional Authorized List (AAL); technical manuals; Quality Assurance Team (QAT); U.S. Government and contractor engineering; technical and logistics support services; contractor provided training; Field Service Representatives (FSR); and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (TW-B-ZAW).

(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: December 7, 2020.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO)—Field Information Communications System (FICS)

TECRO has requested to buy a Field Information Communications System (FICS), consisting of one hundred fifty-four (154) Communications Nodes (CN) with S-788 Type III shelter; twenty-four (24) Communication Relays with S-788 Type III shelter; eight (8) Network Management Systems (NMS) with S-788 Type III shelter; Basic Issue Items (BI); program management support; verification testing; system technical support; transportation; spare and repair parts; communication support equipment; communication equipment integration; tools and test equipment; personnel training and training equipment; initial repair and return program; Additional Authorized List (AAL); technical manuals; Quality Assurance Team (QAT); U.S. Government and contractor engineering; technical and logistics support services; contractor provided training; Field Service Representatives (FSR); and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated program cost is \$280 million.

This proposed sale is consistent with U.S. law and policy as expressed in Public Law 96-8.

This proposed sale serves U.S. national, economic, and security interests by supporting the recipient's continuing efforts to modernize its armed forces and to maintain a credible defensive capability. The proposed sale will help improve the security of the recipient and assist in maintaining political stability, military balance, economic and progress in the region.

This proposed sale is designed to provide mobile and secure communications. It will contribute to the recipient's goal to modernize its military communication's capability in support of their mission and operational needs. The recipient will have no difficulty absorbing these systems 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 is currently unknown due to a pending open competition for selection. The purchaser typically requests offsets. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor(s).

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the permanent assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to the recipient. Contractor representative and U.S. Government support teams may be required to travel to the country on a temporary basis.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 20-87

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 Field Information Communications System (FICS) is made up of commercially available, non-program of record components. The FICS system (also referred to as "Syun Lien") is an area-switched communications system which is designed to provide mobile and secure communications in a wide range of battle situations. The FICS system provides mobile and secure voice and data communications on an automatic, discrete addressed, fixed-directory basis to the military Tactical Operations Center (TOC)-

level command posts (CPs), and remote (mobile) users employing technological improvements in radio transmissions, data networking and packetized voice, while minimizing system footprint (power, size, personnel and logistics train). The system supports both mobile and wire subscribers with a means to exchange command, control, communications, and intelligence information in a dynamic tactical environment.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is UNCLASSIFIED.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures or equivalent systems, which might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that the recipient 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 recipient.

PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, today on Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, veterans and their families will participate in remembrance events at the Pearl Harbor National Memorial.

The attack on December 7, 1941, killed 2,403 and injured 1,178. This date of infamy as President Franklin Delano Roosevelt described it, was one of America's most consequential. It launched the United States into World War II and unleashed the courage, bravery, and resolve of thousands of servicemembers who changed the course of history.

In Europe and Asia, they crushed the forces of fascism, Nazism, and oppression and brought freedom to much of the world. The price they paid was immense. Many made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Those who returned built the world we know today.

We call them the Greatest Generation. Now in the twilight of their lives, we have a chance to say, thank you, once more.

I have introduced S. 3812, the WWII Veterans Hospital and Medical Eligibility Act, and I am pleased to have the bipartisan support of Senators CRAMER, DAINES, BOOKER, TESTER, COONS, COLLINS, YOUNG, RUBIO, SINEMA, ROUNDS, WICKER, HASSAN, and KLOBUCHAR, and TILLIS.

In 1996, the Veterans Health Care Eligibility Act opened the VA healthcare system to all veterans of the Spanish-American War and World War I. My bill will provide the same benefits for World War II veterans. It will exempt World War II veterans who are not enrolled in VA healthcare from means testing requirements. This is one final opportunity to honor their heroism and

afford them with dignity in their final years.

I have been honored to work with the American Legion on this legislation. I thank the Legion for its tireless advocacy on behalf of our Nation's veterans. On October 31, 2019, the American Legion National Commander, Bill Oxford called on the Veterans Administration to expand the Veterans Health Care Eligibility Act of 1996 for World War II veterans. This bill does just that.

As we reflect on National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, it is time for us to answer the call and provide VA healthcare to all those who answered the call of our Nation during its hour of need in World War II.

HONORING DEPUTY SANDEEP DHALIWAL

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, on September 27, 2019, Harris County lost one of its finest when Deputy Sandeep Dhaliwal's life was taken in the line of duty. Pyara Dhaliwal, Deputy Dhaliwal's father, lost his hero.

That is exactly who Deputy Dhaliwal was, a hero. He was deeply committed to his faith, his family, and to serving others with compassion.

Moved by his Sikh faith, Deputy Dhaliwal was a trailblazer. When he was first recruited by the sheriff's office, Deputy Dhaliwal petitioned the office to allow him to wear his turban and beard while in uniform, becoming the first to be allowed to do so.

Deputy Dhaliwal has left a profound legacy on the law enforcement community. Since his death, the Houston Police Department and all eight county constables have changed their policies to allow officers to wear and carry articles of faith on duty. Deputy Dhaliwal's commitment to his faith will inspire generations of Sikhs and other religious minorities to serve in law enforcement and protect our communities.

Deputy Dhaliwal was also a dedicated husband, father, son, and brother. His wife Harwinder Kaur Dhaliwal and their three beautiful children Japdeep, Noordeep, and Pardeep and their family and friends have dedicated their lives to ensuring his legacy endures.

We also remember Deputy Dhaliwal's commitment to love and peace, a love and peace he showed not only while on duty, but to each person he served.

When Hurricane Harvey decimated the Texas Gulf Coast, Deputy Dhaliwal served meals to Houstonians who were left homeless. In the wake of Hurricane Maria, he traveled to Puerto Rico to assist in the relief efforts there. He also worked to deliver water and supplies to Punjab, India, while the area was suffering from a severe drought.

Deputy Dhaliwal leaves behind an unmistakably beautiful legacy of a life marked with faith, devotion, and service to others.

I am grateful my colleagues have moved to rename the U.S. Postal Office

in Houston the “Deputy Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal Post Office Building,” to ensure Deputy Dhaliwal’s selfless service and heroism is remembered. This community and the entire State of Texas are better for having known him.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING ROBERT CROWELL

• Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I come forward today to recognize the life, career, and service of a fellow Nevadan and friend, Mayor Robert Crowell. His leadership and love of the Silver State are an example to all of us. As mayor of Carson City, he led the city through some difficult times—the great recession and the current coronavirus pandemic—and oversaw the redevelopment of the capital city’s downtown core with his unique mix of dedication, compassion, good humor, and vision.

Mayor Crowell began his life of service as a young Navy sailor serving in the Vietnam war. After retiring as a naval captain, he earned his undergraduate degree in economics from Stanford University in 1967 and his doctor of jurisprudence degree from Hastings College of the Law in 1973. He was admitted to the State Bar of Nevada in 1973. He was a member of the Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers and had been included in Best Lawyers in America in the fields of government relations and energy law for the past 25 years.

Born in Tonopah and raised in Carson City, Mayor Crowell was always active in his community, serving as a board member or leadership role with the Carson City School Board, Nevada Association of Counties, Nevada League of Cities, Carson Area Chamber of Commerce, Northern Nevada Development Authority, Rotary Club of Carson City, and Nevada Legal Services. In addition, he was past president of State Bar of Nevada and chair of the Nevada Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Board. He was appointed by the Governor to the Colorado River Commission and twice held the position of chairman, overseeing Nevada’s allocation of water and power from the Colorado River. Mayor Crowell also served as president of the Board of Indigent Defense Services, a State agency to oversee the provision of indigent legal services in Nevada. He was also a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America and was selected to be part of the “first in the country” Honor Flight for Vietnam Veterans in Nevada.

Mayor Crowell has numerous recognitions for his countless contributions to the quality of life of his fellow Nevadans. He was awarded the Participatory Democracy Award from the Nevada Association of Counties and the State Bar of Nevada Presidential Award—the highest honors awarded by those organizations—as well as being inducted in the Nevada Lobbyist Hall of Fame.

Mayor Crowell had many titles—lawyer, lobbyist, veteran, community leader—but it was clear he found great joy in serving the people of Carson City as mayor. Among his accomplishments was leading the effort to redevelop downtown Carson City, creating an entirely new dynamic downtown that supported local businesses and our community. For his leadership on this effort, he was recognized by the Nevada Chapter of the American Planning Association with the De Boer Award as well as the Robert Broadbent Distinguished Services Award from the Nevada Chapter of the American Public Works Association.

What I will remember most about my friend Mayor Crowell are not his numerous and distinguished professional achievements but the way he conducted himself and how he led. Mayor Crowell was dedicated to his fellow residents and the betterment of his community and our great State. I can recall the many acts of kindness and friendship that he showed me when I became Nevada’s attorney general and in the years since. And Mayor Crowell brought those same qualities to every person he interacted with in both his professional and private life.

Nevada lost a true treasure when Mayor Crowell passed on September 12, 2020. His wife Susan and his family shared him with all Nevadans during his life, and we share in their grief upon his passing.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 199. An act to provide for the transfer of certain Federal land in the State of Minnesota for the benefit of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

S. 2981. An act to reauthorize and amend the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 212. An act to amend the Native American Business Development, Trade Promotion, and Tourism Act of 2000, the Buy Indian Act, and the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to provide industry and economic development opportunities to Indian communities.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 914. An act to reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009, to clarify the authority of the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with respect to post-storm assessments, and to require the establishment of a National Water Center, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill,

with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 1342. An act to require the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere to update periodically the environmental sensitivity index products of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for each coastal area of the Great Lakes, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 306. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a reconnaissance survey of the site of the Kettle Creek Battlefield in Wilkes County, Georgia, and adjacent property, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1049. An act to authorize a National Heritage Area Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1380. An act to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to clarify provisions enacted by the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, to further the conservation of certain wildlife species, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1819. An act to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to provide for rewards for the arrest or conviction of certain foreign nationals who have committed genocide or war crimes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3682. An act to provide for greater consultation between the Federal Government and the governing bodies and community users of land grant-mercedes in New Mexico, to provide for a process for recognition of the historic-traditional uses of land grant-mercedes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4153. An act to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to authorize urban Indian organizations to enter into arrangements for the sharing of medical services and facilities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5517. An act to affirm the friendship of the governments of the United States of America and the Republic of India, and to establish a bilateral partnership for collaboration to advance development and shared values, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7045. An act to require the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a study on lands that could be included in a National Forest in Hawai‘i, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7903. An act to amend the Small Business Act to establish the Community Advantage Loan Program.

H.R. 8199. An act to amend the Small Business Act to enhance the Office of Credit Risk Management, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to issue rules relating to environmental obligations of certified development companies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8211. An act to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to improve the loan guaranty program, enhance the ability of small manufacturers to access affordable capital, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8229. An act to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to issue a rule authorizing the Office of Hearings and Appeals to decide appeals relating to the status of HUBZone business concerns, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8810. An act to establish a national program to identify and reduce losses from landslide hazards, to establish a national 3D Elevation Program, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 910. An act to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes.

S. 945. An act to amend the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 to require certain issuers to disclose to the Securities and Exchange Commission information regarding foreign jurisdictions that prevent the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board from performing inspections under that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1069. An act to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a constituent-driven program to provide a digital information platform capable of efficiently integrating coastal data with decision-support tools, training, and best practices and to support collection of priority coastal geospatial data to inform and improve local, State, regional, and Federal capacities to manage the coastal region, and for other purposes.

S. 1982. An act to improve efforts to combat marine debris, and for other purposes.

S. 4054. An act to reauthorize the United States Grain Standards Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3349. An act to authorize the Daughters of the Republic of Texas to establish the Republic of Texas Legation Memorial as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3465. An act to authorize the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

At 3:19 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3884. An act to decriminalize and deschedule cannabis, to provide for reinvestment in certain persons adversely impacted by the War on Drugs, to provide for expungement of certain cannabis offenses, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 306. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a reconnaissance survey of the site of the Kettle Creek Battlefield in Wilkes County, Georgia, and adjacent property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1049. An act to authorize a National Heritage Area Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1380. An act to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to clarify provisions enacted by the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, to further the conservation of certain wildlife species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 1819. An act to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to provide for rewards for the arrest or conviction of certain foreign nationals who have committed genocide or war crimes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 3682. An act to provide for greater consultation between the Federal Government and the governing bodies and community users of land grant-mercedes in New Mexico, to provide for a process for recognition of the historic-traditional uses of land grant-mercedes, and for other purposes; to

the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 3884. An act to decriminalize and deschedule cannabis, to provide for reinvestment in certain persons adversely impacted by the War on Drugs, to provide for expungement of certain cannabis offenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 5517. An act to affirm the friendship of the governments of the United States of America and the Republic of India, and to establish a bilateral partnership for collaboration to advance development and shared values, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 7045. An act to require the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a study on lands that could be included in a National Forest in Hawai'i, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 7903. An act to amend the Small Business Act to establish the Community Advantage Loan Program; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 8199. An act to amend the Small Business Act to enhance the Office of Credit Risk Management, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to issue rules relating to environmental obligations of certified development companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 8211. An act to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to improve the loan guaranty program, enhance the ability of small manufacturers to access affordable capital, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 8229. An act to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to issue a rule authorizing the Office of Hearings and Appeals to decide appeals relating to the status of HUBZone business concerns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 4133. A bill to modernize the REAL ID Act of 2005, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-303).

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 Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 4966. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a 5-year extension of the carbon oxide sequestration credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUNT:

S. 4967. A bill to amend the CARES Act to extend the excise tax holiday period for aviation taxes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 4968. A bill to reauthorize the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, and for

other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. KAINE):

S. 4969. A bill to authorize funds to prevent housing discrimination through the use of nationwide testing, to increase funds for the Fair Housing Initiatives Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 4970. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the renewable electricity production credit to include electricity produced from hydrogen; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 4971. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 229 Minnetonka Avenue South in Wayzata, Minnesota, as the "Jim Ramstad Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. COTTON (for himself and Mrs. LOEFFLER):

S. Res. 794. A resolution urging the European Parliament to exempt certain technologies used to detect child sexual exploitation from European Union ePrivacy directive; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Ms. ERNST):

S. Res. 795. A resolution relating to the death of the Honorable Roger William Jepsen, former United States Senator for the State of Iowa; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 633

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 633, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women's Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the "Six Triple Eight".

S. 997

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 997, a bill to recognize and honor the service of individuals who served in the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II, and for other purposes.

S. 2477

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2477, a bill to establish a National Commission on Fibrotic Diseases.

S. 3612

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin

(Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 3612, a bill to clarify for purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that receipt of coronavirus assistance does not affect the tax treatment of ordinary business expenses.

S. 4155

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4155, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide or assist in providing an additional vehicle adapted for operation by disabled individuals to certain eligible persons.

S. 4494

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4494, a bill to amend title VI of the Social Security Act to extend the period with respect to which amounts under the Coronavirus Relief Fund may be expended.

S. 4547

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4547, a bill to improve the integrity and safety of horseracing by requiring uniform safety and performance standards, including a horseracing anti-doping and medication control program and a racetrack safety program to be developed and enforced by an independent Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority, and for other purposes.

S. 4805

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4805, a bill to create a point of order against legislation modifying the number of Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States.

S. 4847

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4847, a bill to direct the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a study and submit to Congress a report on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the travel and tourism industry in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 4933

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4933, a bill to provide increased oversight of certain pardons, to clarify the applicability of bribery prohibitions to pardons and commutations, and for other purposes.

S. 4935

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from New

Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 4935, a bill to provide continued assistance to unemployed workers.

S.J. RES. 76

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 76, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require that the Supreme Court of the United States be composed of nine justices.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 794—URGING THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT TO EXEMPT CERTAIN TECHNOLOGIES USED TO DETECT CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION FROM EUROPEAN UNION PRIVACY DIRECTIVE

Mr. COTTON (for himself and Mrs. LOEFFLER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 794

Whereas ensuring the safety of children online is a global issue that nations must address together;

Whereas the online trafficking of child sexual abuse material (referred to in this preamble as "CSAM") and online enticement of children (also known as "grooming") are pervasive problems that are growing at dramatic rates;

Whereas crucial tools in detecting CSAM and grooming online and protecting children using online platforms from child predators are hashing, PhotoDNA, and anti-grooming technologies that are voluntarily used by electronic service providers (referred to in this preamble as "ESPs") to detect, report, and remove CSAM;

Whereas the use of hashing, PhotoDNA, and anti-grooming technology by ESPs has generated millions of reports annually to the CyberTipline of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children;

Whereas the CyberTipline is a global hotline for reports related to child sexual exploitation that was authorized by Congress in 1998;

Whereas in 2019, more than 69,000,000 images, videos, and files related to child sexual abuse were reported to the CyberTipline, with more than 3,000,000 of these images, videos, and files related to an offender or child victim in the European Union (referred to in this preamble as the "EU");

Whereas in a Communication to the European Parliament, dated July 24, 2020, the European Commission noted, "the EU has become the largest host of child sexual abuse material globally (from more than half in 2016 to more than two thirds in 2019)";

Whereas in 2018, an EU Directive extended the scope of prohibitions on processing personal data in the electronic communications sector to cover interpersonal communications, such as messenger services and e-mail;

Whereas this EU Directive will cause ESPs to lose any legal basis to use hashing, PhotoDNA, and anti-grooming technologies to detect and report CSAM and online enticement of children to the CyberTipline;

Whereas this EU Directive will take effect December 21, 2020, which still allows time to amend this Directive to exempt the vol-

untary practice of using these technologies to detect and report distribution of CSAM and enticement of children for sexual abuse;

Whereas the prohibition on the use of hashing, PhotoDNA, and anti-grooming technologies could have dire consequences for children in Europe and globally;

Whereas it is unclear whether ESPs—

(1) will be able to partition the use of hashing, PhotoDNA, and anti-grooming technologies to carve out users in the EU; and

(2) will decide to abandon the voluntary use of these technologies in the United States and globally;

Whereas since children in the United States can be harmed by online predators in the EU through grooming, enticement, and the dissemination of CSAM images among EU offenders, such material should be detected, reported, and removed;

Whereas if the use of hashing, PhotoDNA, and anti-grooming technologies for detecting CSAM and grooming is stopped, the exploitation of children globally will largely go undetected and continue to proliferate; and

Whereas Congress agrees with the European Commission that "immediate action must be taken to address this issue";

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) finds that hashing, PhotoDNA, and anti-grooming technologies are essential in detecting child sexual abuse material and exploitation online, including known and new CSAM, and grooming of children globally; and

(2) urges the European Parliament to pass an interim regulation to allow electronic service providers to continue their current voluntary activities of using hashing, PhotoDNA, and anti-grooming technologies for the purpose of detecting child sexual exploitation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 795—RELATING TO THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE ROGER WILLIAM JEPSEN, FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF IOWA

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Ms. ERNST) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 795

Whereas Roger William Jepsen was born in Cedar Falls, Iowa, and grew up on a nearby family farm;

Whereas Roger William Jepsen attended Iowa State Teachers College, which is known today as the University of Northern Iowa, and later attended Arizona State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in psychology in 1950 and a master's degree in guidance counseling in 1953;

Whereas Roger William Jepsen served his country in the United States Army for 14 years as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division and later in the Army Reserve;

Whereas Roger William Jepsen was elected to the Board of Supervisors of Scott County, Iowa, as an Iowa State Senator, and as the Lieutenant Governor of Iowa;

Whereas Roger William Jepsen was elected to the Senate in 1978 and served the people of Iowa in the Senate with honor and distinction for 1 term;

Whereas Roger William Jepsen was appointed by President Reagan as Special Representative of the President to Madagascar in 1985 and to the State of Israel on the occasion of the funeral of Moshe Dayan; and

Whereas Roger William Jepsen was known for his dedication to the State of Iowa, his

fiscal responsibility, and his work on farm policy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Roger William Jepsen, former member of the United States Senate from the State of Iowa;

(2) the Senate respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate—

(A) communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives; and

(B) transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of the Honorable Roger William Jepsen; and

(3) when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable Roger William Jepsen.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2692. Mr. MARKEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2054, 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; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SA 2693. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. ALEXANDER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1503, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act regarding the list under section 505(j)(7) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2692. Mr. MARKEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2054, 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; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) On September 11, 2012, the United States consulate, and its personnel in Benghazi, Libya, were attacked by militants.

(2) Four Americans were killed in the attack, including Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens, Sean Smith, Glen Doherty, and Tyrone Woods.

(3) Glen Doherty and Tyrone Woods were former Navy SEALs who served as security personnel in Libya. As the attack unfolded, they bravely attempted to defend American property and protect United States diplomatic personnel. In so doing, they selflessly sacrificed their own lives.

(4) Glen Doherty was a Navy SEAL for 12 years and served in Iraq and Afghanistan. He attained the rank of Petty Officer First Class and earned the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal. After leaving the Navy, Glen Doherty worked with the Department of State to protect American diplomats.

(5) Tyrone Woods served for 20 years as a Navy SEAL including tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. In Iraq he led multiple raids and reconnaissance missions and earned the Bronze Star. After retiring from the Navy as a Senior Chief Petty Officer, Tyrone Woods worked with the Department of State to protect American diplomats.

(6) J. Christopher Stevens served for 21 years in the U.S. Foreign Service. He was serving as U.S. Ambassador to Libya and previously served twice in the country, as both Special Representative to the Libyan Transitional National Council and as the Deputy Chief of Mission. Earlier in his life, he also served as a Peace Corps volunteer teaching English in Morocco.

(7) Sean Smith served for 6 years in the U.S. Air Force. He attained the rank of Staff Sergeant and was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal. After leaving the Air Force, Sean Smith served for 10 years in the State Department on various assignments, which took him to places such as Baghdad, Brussels, Pretoria, and The Hague.

(8) As their careers attest, all four men served their country honorably.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the posthumous award, on behalf of the Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design collectively in commemoration of Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith, in recognition of their contributions to the Nation.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”) shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY MUSEUM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the gold medal under subsection (a), the gold medal shall be given to the Central Intelligence Agency Museum, where it will be displayed as appropriate and made available for research.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Central Intelligence Agency Museum should make the gold medal received under paragraph (1) available for display elsewhere, particularly at other appropriate locations associated with Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith.

SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

Under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 2, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.

Medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

SA 2693. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. ALEXANDER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1503, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act regarding the list under section 505(j)(7) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Orange Book Transparency Act of 2020”.

SEC. 2. ORANGE BOOK MODERNIZATION.

(a) SUBMISSION OF PATENT INFORMATION FOR BRAND NAME DRUGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(b)) is amended to read as follows:

“(b)(1)(A) Any person may file with the Secretary an application with respect to any drug subject to the provisions of subsection (a). Such persons shall submit to the Secretary as part of the application—

“(i) full reports of investigations which have been made to show whether such drug is safe for use and whether such drug is effective in use;

“(ii) a full list of the articles used as components of such drug;

“(iii) a full statement of the composition of such drug;

“(iv) a full description of the methods used in, and the facilities and controls used for, the manufacture, processing, and packing of such drug;

“(v) such samples of such drug and of the articles used as components thereof as the Secretary may require;

“(vi) specimens of the labeling proposed to be used for such drug;

“(vii) any assessments required under section 505B; and

“(viii) the patent number and expiration date of each patent for which a claim of patent infringement could reasonably be asserted if a person not licensed by the owner of the patent engaged in the manufacture, use, or sale of the drug, and that—

“(I) claims the drug for which the applicant submitted the application and is a drug substance (active ingredient) patent or a drug product (formulation or composition) patent; or

“(II) claims a method of using such drug for which approval is sought or has been granted in the application.

“(B) If an application is filed under this subsection for a drug, and a patent of the type described in subparagraph (A)(viii) is issued after the filing date but before approval of the application, the applicant shall amend the application to include the patent number and expiration date.”.

(b) SUBSEQUENT SUBMISSION OF PATENT INFORMATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 505(c)(2) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(c)(2)) is amended—

(A) by inserting before the first sentence the following: “Not later than 30 days after the date of approval of an application submitted under subsection (b), the holder of the approved application shall file with the Secretary the patent number and the expiration date of any patent described in subsection (b)(1)(A)(viii), except that a patent that is identified as claiming a method of using such drug shall be filed only if the patent claims a method of use approved in the application. If a patent described in subsection (b)(1)(A)(viii) is issued after the date of approval of an application submitted under subsection (b), the holder of the approved application shall, not later than 30 days after the date of issuance of the patent, file the patent number and the expiration date of the patent, except that a patent that claims a method of using such drug shall be filed only if approval for such use has been granted in the application.”;

(B) in the first sentence following the sentences added by subparagraph (A), by striking “which claims the drug for which” and all that follows through “of the drug.” and inserting “described in subsection (b)(1)(A)(viii).”;

(C) in the second sentence following the sentences added by subparagraph (A), by inserting after “could not file patent information under subsection (b) because no patent” the following: “of the type for which information is required to be submitted in subsection (b)(1)(A)(viii).”;

(D) by adding at the end the following: “Patent information that is not the type of patent information required by subsection

(b)(1)(A)(viii) shall not be submitted under this paragraph.”.

(2) UPDATING LIST.—Clause (iii) of section 505(j)(7)(A) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(j)(7)) is amended by striking “(b) or”.

(c) LISTING OF EXCLUSIVITIES.—Subparagraph (A) of section 505(j)(7) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(j)(7)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(iv) For each drug included on the list, the Secretary shall specify any exclusivity period that is applicable, for which the Secretary has determined the expiration date, and for which such period has not yet expired, under—

“(I) clause (ii), (iii), or (iv) of subsection (c)(3)(E);

“(II) clause (iv) or (v) of paragraph (5)(B);

“(III) clause (ii), (iii), or (iv) of paragraph (5)(F);

“(IV) section 505A;

“(V) section 505E;

“(VI) section 527(a); or

“(VII) subsection (u).”.

(d) ORANGE BOOK UPDATES WITH RESPECT TO INVALIDATED PATENTS.—

(1) AMENDMENT.—Section 505(j)(7) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(j)(7)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(D) In the case of a listed drug for which the list under subparagraph (A)(i) includes a patent for such drug, and any claim of the patent has been cancelled or invalidated pursuant to a final decision issued by the Patent Trial and Appeal Board of the United States Patent and Trademark Office or by a court, from which no appeal has been, or can be, taken, if the holder of the applicable application approved under subsection (c) determines that a patent for such drug, or any patent information for such drug, no longer meets the listing requirements under this section—

“(i) the holder of such approved application shall notify the Secretary, in writing, within 14 days of such decision of such cancellation or invalidation and request that such patent or patent information, as applicable, be amended or withdrawn in accordance with the decision issued by the Patent Trial and Appeal Board or a court;

“(ii) the holder of such approved application shall include in any notification under clause (i) information related to such patent cancellation or invalidation decision and submit such information, including a copy of such decision, to the Secretary; and

“(iii) the Secretary shall, in response to a notification under clause (i), amend or remove patent or patent information in accordance with the relevant decision from the Patent Trial and Appeals Board or court, as applicable, except that the Secretary shall not remove from the list any patent or patent information before the expiration of any 180-day exclusivity period under paragraph (5)(B)(iv) that relies on a certification described in paragraph (2)(A)(vii)(IV).”.

(2) APPLICABILITY.—Subparagraph (D) of section 505(j)(7) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(j)(7)), as added by paragraph (1), applies only with respect to a decision described in such subparagraph that is issued on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(e) REVIEW AND REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, shall—

(1) solicit public comment regarding the types of patent information that should be included on, or removed from, the list under section 507(j)(7) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(j)(7)); and

(2) transmit to Congress a summary of such comments and actions the Food and Drug Administration is considering taking, if any, in response to public comment pursuant to paragraph (1) about the types of patent information that should be included or removed from such list.

(f) GAO REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States (referred to in this section as the “Comptroller General”) shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report on the patents included in the list published under section 505(j)(7) of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(j)(7)) that claim an active ingredient or formulation of a drug in combination with a device that is used for delivery of such drug, including an analysis of such patents and their claims.

(2) CONTENT.—The Comptroller General shall include in the report under paragraph (1)—

(A) data on—

(i) the number of patents included in the list published under section 505(j)(7) of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(j)(7)) that claim the active ingredient or formulation of a drug in combination with a device that is used for delivery of the drug, and that together claim the finished dosage form of the drug; and

(ii) the number of claims with respect to each patent included in the list published under such section 505(j)(7) that claim a device that is used for the delivery of the drug, but do not claim such device in combination with an active ingredient or formulation of a drug;

(B) an analysis of the listing of patents described in subparagraph (A)(ii), including the timing of listing such patents in relation to patents described in subparagraph (A)(i), and the effect listing the patents described in subparagraph (A)(ii) has on market entry of one or more drugs approved under section 505(j) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act as compared to the effect of not listing the patents described in subparagraph (A)(ii); and

(C) recommendations about which kinds of patents relating to devices described in subparagraph (A)(i) should be submitted to the Secretary of Health and Human Services for inclusion on the list under section 505(j)(7) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and which patents should not be required to be so submitted in order to reduce barriers to approval and market entry.

(g) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(3)(E), by striking “clause (A) of subsection (b)(1)” each place it appears and inserting “subsection (b)(1)(A)(i)”; and

(2) in subsection (j)(2)(A)(vi), by striking “clauses (B) through (F) of subsection (b)(1)” and inserting “clauses (ii) through (vi) of subsection (b)(1)(A)”.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, in recognition of his outstanding service to my office this last year, I ask unanimous consent that Captain Ryan Albin, the defense fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of this Congress.

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

RELATING TO THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE ROGER WILLIAM JEPSEN, FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF IOWA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 795, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 795) relating to the death of the Honorable Roger William Jepsen, former United States Senator for the State of Iowa.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 795) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

DHS OPIOID DETECTION RESILIENCE ACT OF 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 502, H.R. 4761.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4761) to ensure U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers, agents, and other personnel have adequate synthetic opioid detection equipment, that the Department of Homeland Security has a process to update synthetic opioid detection capability, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 4761) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

SECURING AMERICA'S PORTS ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 530, H.R. 5273.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5273) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a plan to

increase to 100 percent the rates of scanning of commercial and passenger vehicles entering the United States at land ports of entry along the border using large-scale non-intrusive inspection systems to enhance border security, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Securing America’s Ports Act”.

SEC. 2. LARGE-SCALE NON-INTRUSIVE INSPECTION SCANNING PLAN.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) LARGE-SCALE NON-INTRUSIVE INSPECTION SYSTEM.—The term “large-scale, non-intrusive inspection system” means a technology, including x-ray, gamma-ray, and passive imaging systems, capable of producing an image of the contents of a commercial or passenger vehicle or freight rail car in 1 pass of such vehicle or car.

(2) SCANNING.—The term “scanning” means utilizing nonintrusive imaging equipment, radiation detection equipment, or both, to capture data, including images of a commercial or passenger vehicle or freight rail car.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a plan to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives for increasing to 100 percent the rate of high-throughput scanning of commercial and passenger vehicles and freight rail traffic entering the United States at land ports of entry and rail-border crossings along the border using large-scale non-intrusive inspection systems or similar technology to enhance border security.

(c) BASELINE INFORMATION.—The plan under subsection (b) shall include, at a minimum, the following information regarding large-scale non-intrusive inspection systems or similar technology operated by U.S. Customs and Border Protection at land ports of entry and rail-border crossings as of the date of the enactment of this Act:

(1) An inventory of large-scale non-intrusive inspection systems or similar technology in use at each land port of entry.

(2) For each system or technology identified in the inventory under paragraph (1)—

(A) the scanning method of such system or technology;

(B) the location of such system or technology at each land port of entry that specifies whether in use in pre-primary, primary, or secondary inspection area, or some combination of such areas;

(C) the percentage of commercial and passenger vehicles and freight rail traffic scanned by such system or technology;

(D) seizure data directly attributed to scanned commercial and passenger vehicles and freight rail traffic; and

(E) the number of personnel required to operate each system or technology.

(3) Information regarding the continued use of other technology and tactics used for scanning, such as canines and human intelligence in conjunction with large scale, nonintrusive inspection systems.

(d) ELEMENTS.—The plan under subsection (b) shall include the following information:

(1) Benchmarks for achieving incremental progress towards 100 percent high-throughput scanning within the next 6 years of commercial and passenger vehicles and freight rail traffic entering the United States at land ports of entry and rail-border crossings along the border with

corresponding projected incremental improvements in scanning rates by fiscal year and rationales for the specified timeframes for each land port of entry.

(2) Estimated costs, together with an acquisition plan, for achieving the 100 percent high-throughput scanning rate within the timeframes specified in paragraph (1), including acquisition, operations, and maintenance costs for large-scale, nonintrusive inspection systems or similar technology, and associated costs for any necessary infrastructure enhancements or configuration changes at each port of entry. Such acquisition plan shall promote, to the extent practicable, opportunities for entities that qualify as small business concerns (as defined under section 3(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a))).

(3) Any projected impacts, as identified by the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, on the total number of commercial and passenger vehicles and freight rail traffic entering at land ports of entry and rail-border crossings where such systems are in use, and average wait times at peak and non-peak travel times, by lane type if applicable, as scanning rates are increased.

(4) Any projected impacts, as identified by the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, on land ports of entry and rail-border crossings border security operations as a result of implementation actions, including any changes to the number of U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers or their duties and assignments.

(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the submission of the plan under subsection (b), and biennially thereafter for the following 6 years, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a report to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives that describes the progress implementing the plan and includes—

(1) an inventory of large-scale, nonintrusive inspection systems or similar technology operated by U.S. Customs and Border Protection at each land port of entry;

(2) for each system or technology identified in the inventory required under paragraph (1)—

(A) the scanning method of such system or technology;

(B) the location of such system or technology at each land port of entry that specifies whether in use in pre-primary, primary, or secondary inspection area, or some combination of such areas;

(C) the percentage of commercial and passenger vehicles and freight rail traffic scanned by such system or technology; and

(D) seizure data directly attributed to scanned commercial and passenger vehicles and freight rail traffic;

(3) the total number of commercial and passenger vehicles and freight rail traffic entering at each land port of entry at which each system or technology is in use, and information on average wait times at peak and non-peak travel times, by lane type if applicable;

(4) a description of the progress towards reaching the benchmarks referred to in subsection (d)(1), and an explanation if any of such benchmarks are not achieved as planned;

(5) a comparison of actual costs (including information on any awards of associated contracts) to estimated costs set forth in subsection (d)(2);

(6) any realized impacts, as identified by the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, on land ports of entry and rail-border crossings operations as a result of implementation actions, including any changes to the number of U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers or their duties and assignments;

(7) any proposed changes to the plan and an explanation for such changes, including changes made in response to any Department of

Homeland Security research and development findings or changes in terrorist or transnational criminal organizations tactics, techniques, or procedures; and

(8) any challenges to implementing the plan or meeting the benchmarks, and plans to mitigate any such challenges.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the amendment to the title be agreed to; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 5273), as amended, was passed.

The committee-reported amendment to the title was agreed to, as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: “An Act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a plan to increase to 100 percent the rates of scanning of commercial and passenger vehicles and freight rail entering the United States at land ports of entry along the border using large-scale, nonintrusive inspection systems to enhance border security, and for other purposes.”.

ORANGE BOOK TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1503 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will read the bill by title.

A bill (H.R. 1503) to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act regarding the list under section 505(j)(7) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Alexander substitute amendment at the desk be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 2693), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today’s RECORD under “Text of Amendments.”)

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 1503), as amended, was passed.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 8, 2020

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, December 8; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following

leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Simington nomination under the previous order. Finally, I ask that the Senate recess following the cloture vote on the Simington nomination until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the provisions of S. Res. 795 and do so as a further mark of respect for the late Roger William Jepsen, former Senator from Iowa.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:40 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, December 8, 2020, at 10 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I was unfortunately prevented from traveling and unable to make votes on December 4, 2020. Had I been present I would have voted in favor of the motion to recommit H.R. 3884, against passage of H.R. 3884, and against S. 2981.

HONORING DR. NOEL SMITH'S 95TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 95th birthday of Dr. Noel Smith from Fresno, California. Noel is a doctor, father and proud advocate in the community.

Dr. Smith is a native of La Brea, Trinidad. He graduated from Howard University with a Doctorate in Medicine, magna cum laude. In 1958, he fulfilled his residency at the Fresno County General Hospital, in which he served as an obstetrician/gynecologist for the people of West Fresno. In this position, he provided much needed medical care to the medically underserved.

Dr. Smith has previously worked at Fresno Regional Medical Center, Valley Medical Center and St. Agnes Hospital. He is a member of both the National Medical Association and the Golden State Medical Association.

He has shared his wisdom and been an active member of the community throughout his career, serving on numerous boards and commissions. These include the Edison-Bethune School Board, Infant of Prague Adoption Agency, Fresno Model Cities Board and Mayor's Bi-Racial committee. He is also a proud life member of the NAACP. Dr. Smith devotes his life and career to serving the Fresno community and he continues to share his knowledge by supporting those in need. He helped establish the West Fresno Health Care Coalition and served as Chair of the Fresno Model Cities Board and the T.B. Health Association.

He is a recipient of various honors and awards for his service to the community including, the 2010 African American Museum Trailblazers award and the Health award from the NAACP Fresno Board.

Dr. Smith and his wife, Gloria are the proud parents of eight children, Noel Jr., Quincy, Robert, John-Stephen, Jennifer, Anthony, Sybil and Ronald, grandparents of 15 grandchildren, and 7 great grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in celebrating Dr. Noel Smith's 95th birthday. I ask that you join me

in wishing Dr. Smith and his family continued success, health and happiness.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for the following votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 222; NAY on Roll Call No. 223; NAY on Roll Call No. 224; NAY on Roll Call No. 225; YEA on Roll Call No. 226; and NAY on Roll Call No. 227.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF EDWARD GLYN HESTER

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Edward Glyn Hester of Nettleton who passed away Saturday, November 7. As a fellow service member, I am grateful for Mr. Hester's dedication to family, state, and country.

Edward Glyn Hester was born on February 8, 1943 to Herman Glyn Hester and Ruth Johnson Hester. He spent his early years in Itawamba County and attended Nettleton High School. Glyn went on to graduate from Mississippi State University with a degree in business. He used these skills to build his own construction company, Glyn Hester Builders. He used these resources to serve as lead contractor in the construction of small homes throughout Mississippi dedicated to the Baptist Children's Village. There is a cottage in Starr, Mississippi named after Glyn and his wife, Judy. He dedicated over 20 years to the Baptist Children's Village, serving as a trustee.

Glyn Hester served in the Mississippi National Guard from 1965 to 1971. He was also a dedicated long-time member of Nettleton First Baptist Church, serving as a Deacon and Sunday School Secretary. Glyn was an important figure in the church, prioritizing regular attendance and arriving early to offer help to anyone who may need it.

Glyn is survived by his wife of 53 years, Judy; son, Britton; daughter, Leslie; and two grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents.

Edward Glyn Hester was a light unto all who had the opportunity to know and love him, and he will be deeply missed. My deepest condolences are with his family and friends.

IN HONOR OF IAN BAIN

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Redwood City councilmember and former mayor Ian Bain as he leaves the city council after 17 years of continuous service, and nearly 18 years in all. It's been an extraordinary time of change for his city, and Ian helped shape much of the transformation.

In the past decade, Redwood City grew by nearly 10,000 persons, or 12 percent, and by nearly 21 percent since Ian first sat as a councilmember in the late 1990's. Twenty-first century buildings have replaced their 20th century predecessors, and in at least one instance a 19th century home was moved to a new location as acres of new construction commenced. Locals noted that crows fled the area while cranes—aerial cranes with steel swinging from cables—were spotted throughout downtown.

Ian Bain was a councilmember who cautioned colleagues that major change is hard on longtime residents. He was right. While the city rushed to meet the demands for office space related to the economic boom, and for housing that would temper skyrocketing rents, Ian noted that the effort was falling short for renters. As developers asked for approvals, Ian insisted that the developments work for all city residents.

Today, with the city and our nation in pandemic slow motion, it outwardly appears that pressure to grow is less. In fact, it's only delayed. Some of the solutions to our pandemic are being developed by rapidly growing companies located in Redwood City and throughout San Mateo County. These companies will need offices for researchers and housing for them and their families.

On one Superbowl Sunday, I stood with Ian Bain on a levee in the middle of an inland sea, with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, as Ian and I argued against housing being built in the bay. Regrettably, the agency decided to abandon its protection of the waters of the United States. The United States District Court subsequently found EPA's action in violation of the law. Ian has been steadfast in his opposition to filling San Francisco Bay.

As a member of the revenue and finance committee, he fought to ensure that expansion of Redwood City is accompanied by prudent city financing. The city has unfunded pension liabilities and Ian is quick to note that its infrastructure needs major renovations. For both environmental and fiscal reasons, Ian led the city's effort to reduce its use of electricity by 22 percent and of natural gas by 34 percent. Homeowners in Friendly Acres and residents in mobile home parks on the east side of Highway 101 have Ian to thank, in part, as the city closes in on a solution to regular flooding in their areas.

• 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.

Throughout Redwood City, you see humorous signs advising you to slow down and to consider the cost of a traffic ticket. You'll notice new stop signs and physical changes to historically dangerous intersections. If you trip over a crack in a defective sidewalk, don't blame Ian. He fought very hard for repairs. Ian is a lover of all things pedestrian and bicycle friendly.

He served as a board member of the Sequoia Awards where he and others annually provide tens of thousands of dollars to high achieving, socially active young people going to college. In a prior career, he helped find jobs for adults with disabilities and he is an active member of the Chamber of Commerce. His council responsibilities include service on the personnel committee, transportation and mobility committee, and regional boards including Peninsula Clean Energy and the C/CAG bicycle and pedestrian advisory committee.

Ian Bain is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley and has a Bachelor's in Political Science. He is married to Robbie Moffat. They live in the Woodside Plaza area of Redwood City.

Madam Speaker, Ian Bain has been an outstanding leader in Redwood City for close to two decades and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with him. His community is losing a longtime civic leader and an activist. I wish him well and know that his talents will always be directed toward helping the city that he loves.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARIANNE
UDOW-PHILLIPS FOR A DISTINGUISHED CAREER

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt congratulations to Marianne Udow-Phillips as she celebrates her retirement as executive director of the Center for Health Research. Her contributions to our community are worthy of commendation.

Marianne Udow-Phillips was the founding executive director of the Center for Health Research Transformation (CHRT) at the University of Michigan. In this role, Marianne led several projects and initiatives to advance evidence-based care delivery, improve population health, and expand access to care. While at the University of Michigan, Marianne was also a lecturer in the School of Public Health and the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, where she guided students on how to develop equitable policy solutions to address the nation's most pressing healthcare issues. Prior to her role at CHRT, Marianne served as director of the State of Michigan's Department of Human Services and senior vice president of health care products and provider services at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. In addition, she has held several leadership roles at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Mercy Alternative. Marianne currently serves as a board member for the Grameen Foundation. University of Michigan Health System, Arbor Research Collaborative for Health, U-M De-

pression Center National Advisory Board, Greater Detroit Area Health Council, and Michigan Women's Foundation Emeritus Board.

Throughout all capacities, Marianne Udow-Phillips has been recognized as a transformative, effective, and motivated leader who strives to effect change. Her leadership has positively impacted the health care landscape in Michigan, and her efforts have been paramount in informing policymakers of critical healthcare needs across the community. Above all, Marianne is a kind, compassionate, and generous friend who is always willing to help someone in need. She had dedicated her career to bettering the community, and she has devoted her lifetime to mentoring and supporting women. Marianne has earned several awards and honors for her impactful work, including the Anti-Defamation League's "Women of Achievement Award"; Crain's Detroit Business's top 100 "Most Influential Women Award"; and the Michigan Women's Foundation's "Women of Achievement and Courage Award."

Although Marianne is retiring as executive director, she will remain a strong presence at CHRT. She will continue her important work and serve as a senior advisor on a number of CHRT initiatives. Moving forward, Marianne plans to begin the next chapter of her life by using her talents and wide expertise to launch a consulting company. Undoubtedly, Marianne has made a difference in our community, and we wish her continued success in the years ahead.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Marianne Udow-Phillips. We are proud to celebrate her work, accomplishments, and significant community impact. We are grateful for her outstanding leadership and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA PAROLE AND SUPERVISED RELEASE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the District of Columbia Parole and Supervised Release Act. This bill would give the District of Columbia the authority to make parole and supervised release determinations for D.C. Code offenders beginning on November 1, 2022.

Currently, the U.S. Parole Commission makes these determinations for D.C. Code offenders. This bill would give D.C. the same authority over parole and supervised release determinations for D.C. Code offenders that the Commission has today. The District has asked to have this authority for its own local offenders. D.C. would have the same authority the states possess over their own local offenders on these matters, including the authority to devise an adjudication system as it sees fit.

The National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997 transferred the functions of the D.C. Parole Board

to the Commission. By transferring the costs associated with the Commission's work on D.C. Code offenders to the District, the federal government would save money with passage of this bill.

I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
ROBERT RALPH DUNN

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and accomplishments of Robert Ralph Dunn who passed away on May 11, 2020 at the age of 76.

Bob was a lifelong resident of the Morongo Basin, born November 10, 1944, to Ralph Franklin Dunn and Gertrude (Judy) Bond Sherman. His maternal grandparents, Harris and Doris Sherman, moved to Twentynine Palms in the 1930s. Bob graduated from Twentynine Palms High School in 1963.

After graduating high school, Bob enlisted in the United States Army. He served as a 1st Lieutenant of the United States Army 8th Special Forces where he was stationed in Central and South America from 1965 until 1969. After his service to our country, Bob married his wife Marie Huntington in 1975, at the Little Church of the Desert in Twentynine Palms. Bob continued to work within the 8th District of California in a new role, as a State Farm insurance agent starting in 1979. Bob worked with his father and brother in this family business role in the Morongo Basin.

He believed in the Morongo Basin and its communities, through mentorship and service, Bob became a pillar within the 8th district of California. Through his work within the Morongo Basin, he became a past Morongo Unified School District Board Member and President, President of the Yucca Valley Airport District Board, Officer of The San Bernardino County Republican Party, and a longtime supporter of the Boys and Girls Club of the Hi-Desert.

With Robert's passing, America lost a man who was not only a pillar in our community, but also someone who truly believed in and fought for the ideals of this great nation. On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I would like to pass along my deepest condolences to all of Robert's friends and family during this difficult time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was not present for roll call votes on December 4, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 233; YEA on Roll Call No. 234; and NAY on Roll Call No. 235.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GEORGE
THOMAS "TOM" SEAVER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. COSTA. Madam, Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Major League Baseball legend, Hall of Famer and military veteran, Mr. George Thomas "Tom" Seaver. He was a beloved father, husband, friend and one of the finest baseball pitchers our country has had the pleasure of watching.

Tom was born in Fresno, California to Betty Lee and Charles Henry Seaver. He attended Fresno High School and played on the baseball team. After graduating high school, Tom worked for his father's company in the raisin industry before joining the United States Marine Corps Reserve in 1962 stationed at 29 Palms in California until 1963. He served his eight-year commitment, remaining in the reserves until 1970.

Tom attended Fresno City College, while working and serving in the reserves. He began the 1964 season two inches taller and 30 pounds stronger at 6'1" and 190 pounds and quickly caught the attention of scouts. Tom had an 11–1 season, throwing at 90-mph for the Fresno City baseball team. He was recruited to the University of Southern California (USC) under the guidance of legendary coach Rod Dedeaux.

His talent and potential as a pitcher was evident from the start. In his first season at USC, Tom went 10–2, striking out 100 batters in 100 innings. He was drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers before returning to school for his junior year. He was signed by the Atlanta Braves in 1966, before landing with the New York Mets via a lottery.

In 1967, Tom was named an All-Star and won the National League Rookie of the Year award, after a 16–13 season and 2.76 earned run average. The Met's new manager Gil Hodges immediately saw Tom's potential and the two formed a strong bond. He was a part of the "Miracle Mets" that won their first World Series in 1969. From 1968 to 1976, Tom had a record nine consecutive 200-strikeout seasons. Tom would go on to play 11 seasons for the Mets, 6 seasons for the Cincinnati Reds, 2 seasons with the Chicago White Sox, before retiring with the Boston Red Sox.

A right-hander who earned the nickname "Tom Terrific," Tom won 311 games and struck out 3,640 batters over his 20-year major league career. He earned 12 All-Star selections, led the National League in wins 3 times. He also won three National League Cy Young Awards. He was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1992, earning 98.8 percent of the ballots cast by members of Baseball Writers Association of America. This was the highest voting percentage ever earned at that time. In 1988, the Mets honored his storied career by retiring Tom's number 41.

After his career in baseball, Tom worked as an announcer for the New York Yankees and the New York Mets. Tom and his wife established a winery in Calistoga, California, Seaver Vineyards along with his family. Tom enjoyed time with his family and his vineyard.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy, and their two daughters, Sarah and Anne.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating and honoring the life of

baseball legend, Tom Seaver. His legacy will be remembered for many years to come. He truly was terrific. We join his family, friends and community in honoring his great life and legacy.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF JILL
RICE

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Jill Rice, who passed away on November 17, on her 78th birthday. After a hard-fought battle with Alzheimer's disease, Mrs. Rice is now at peace with our Lord, though she will be deeply missed by those who knew and loved her.

Jill was born in Memphis, Tennessee to Willie Clyde and Mary Lavelle Rowan White. She married Massachusetts native Richard Thomas Rice in September of 1960. Richard dedicated 20 years to the United States Navy before the couple moved to Mooreville, Mississippi in 1979.

Mrs. Rice was not only known as a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, but for her wide variety of interests and hobbies. As a Black Belt in Taekwondo, she achieved many awards among her age group. She spent her free time with her beloved grandchildren and kittens.

Jill Rice is survived by her husband of 60 years, Richard Rice; their daughter, Debbie; three grandsons; and three great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her son Gary who passed away in 1999.

Mrs. Rice embodied a remarkable kindness and empathy felt by all those she knew. She will be greatly missed, and I join her loved ones in mourning her loss.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MAYOR JOHN FRANKLIN
GRIMES III

HON. TED BUDD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Siler City Mayor John Franklin Grimes III, who passed away on October 20, 2020. John was a stalwart of the Siler City, North Carolina community where he served as mayor since 2013. He was a servant in the truest sense of the word, always willing to go to the back of the line and take care of the needs of others first. Unsurprisingly, he was one of the select few to be awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, North Carolina's highest civilian honor for remarkable service to the state.

John's character of service was ingrained at a young age as his father quickly signed up to join the U.S. Navy after the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. John would say that, "Growing up, we presumed to have an obligation to serve in the military." Consequently, after graduating from Davie County High School, John received a scholarship to play football at Wake Forest in Winston-

Salem, enrolling in the school's ROTC program. Upon graduation, John earned a commission as a second lieutenant and served in the 3rd/8th Calvary in Germany during the Vietnam era.

Upon returning to North Carolina with his wife Cecilia, John was asked to serve as a local judge for the 1968 election to help identify and report election irregularities. After a break from public service where he helped build and expand the Cecil Budd Tire Company, John would re-enter politics through his work with the Chatham County Republican Party, eventually becoming its chair. In 1994 he ran (and led the ticket) for a seat on the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, becoming the first Republican elected to that Board in the 20th century.

In 1999, he was elected to the Siler City Board of Commissioners and served as Mayor Pro Term until his election as Mayor in 2013, his first of four terms. John continuously stressed how seriously he valued the input of his constituents, saying "If they don't hold (politicians) accountable, anything can happen."

Madam Speaker, our country needs more public servants like John Franklin Grimes III. The entire Siler City community is less whole today without John, but the impact he made and the lives he touched are a testament to how special a person he was. Please join me in celebrating his life and legacy.

IN HONOR OF SHELLY MASUR

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Shelly Masur as she departs from the city council of Redwood City. When coupled with her 10 years of service as a trustee of the Redwood City School District, she has served constituents for a remarkable 15 years. When coupled with her related professional endeavors over even more years, it's fair to say that it's been an extremely productive chapter of her life.

Shelly has a distinguished career in education as an advocate. For the past five years, she led the nonprofit Californians Dedicated to Education Foundation. Under her leadership the organization hosted its first STEM symposium for 3,000 educators focused on diversifying the STEM pipeline, partnered with the California Department of Education by serving as a fiscal agent for grants secured by the department, created forums focused on standards implementation, and otherwise supported educational reform efforts throughout California. However, it was her service as a trustee of the school board that is her enduring contribution to education.

Serving on a school board in California is not for the faint of heart. In one year the district had to cut its budget by 20 percent. Shelly did her duty, but she went further. She and her colleagues educated voters about the importance of the district, and ultimately a modest parcel tax of \$67 passed, followed by a renewal at \$85. These measures strengthened district finances enormously.

The district is composed of 6700 pre-K to 8th grade students from around the globe. According to the district, Hispanic/Latino students

make up the largest ethnic group at 68 percent. Twenty-two percent of students are white, 6 percent are Asian/Pacific Islander, and 1 percent are African-American. Shelly always insisted that the programming for these students be first-rate, including but not limited to such important offerings as accelerated learning, developmental bilingual education, dual language immersion in Spanish, a gifted and talented education (GATE) program, Mandarin immersion and a program in music and the performing arts.

Advocating for equal opportunity for a high-quality education for every student is both a personal and professional passion of Shelly Masur. In 2013, her advocacy was noted by the influential Silicon Valley Business Journal which named her one of the "100 Women of Influence" in Silicon Valley. She recently ended her term as board president of Redwood City 2020, a public-private partnership engaging 800 plus community members to support the future of the school district and broader community development.

As a city councilmember, Shelly was equally passionate about the need for more housing and often endured strong opposition to building housing for all. For example, a proposal to allow more affordable accessory dwelling units was slated for major downscaling until Shelly developed a compromise that gained six out of seven votes on the council. A property owner near an affordable housing development filed suit to prevent its construction. Shelly and her colleagues fought the suit and ultimately the nonprofit sponsor was able to develop 20 affordable for-purchase new homes for very low and low income residents.

In the past eight years, including five when Shelly served on the council, Redwood City, with a population of 79,000 residents, added over 4,000 new housing units. Presently, over 500 affordable units are either approved or under construction.

Shelly Masur's professional experience includes extensive nonprofit work through seven youth and teen organizations including Teen Talk, the Adolescent Health Collaborative, the John Gardner Center at Stanford, and the Californians Dedicated to Education Foundation. Her husband, Josh, and her three children, Julia, Jacob and Noah, have also contributed to this remarkable woman's efforts, enduring countless hours without Shelly as she attended multiple late night meetings and forums over 21 years of personal and professional responsibilities. We thank them for their contribution to us all.

Madam Speaker, there are many who talk about public service, but few who bear the price and produce such widespread acclaim for their unwavering support of the public's best interests. Whether working on adolescent health, housing, parks and recreation, kindergarten or city infrastructure investments, Shelly Masur demonstrated a knack for getting the job done. Unlike some in public life, her record is real. Our community appreciates her brilliance, insightfulness and honesty. If we've learned anything in 2020, public officials of this caliber are needed to make democracy strong. Fortunately, in Shelly Masur, we have a pillar of democracy. We can truly say, "Thank you, Shelly. Job well done."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I was recently exposed to someone who later tested positive for the Coronavirus. Based on the recommendation of the Attending Physician, I am in self-quarantine. As such, I was physically absent from the House of Representatives on December 4.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 234 and NAY on Roll Call No. 235.

NATIONAL PURPLE HEART HALL OF HONOR COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ANTHONY GONZALEZ

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Senate Amendment to H.R. 1830, the "National Purple Heart Honor Mission Commemorative Coin Act."

I would like to thank Leader SCHUMER for championing this issue on the Senate side, and the Gentleman from New York, Congressman MALONEY, for his work. We passed his version of this bill in the House back in September of 2019. Regardless of the chamber, I'm glad we have the opportunity to send this important bill to the President's desk.

The National Purple Heart Mission opened in 2006. The Purple Heart Mission is a New York State Facility that is dedicated to collecting, preserving, and sharing the stories of all Purple Heart recipients from all branches of service and across all conflicts.

Enrollments at the National Purple Heart Mission are voluntary and submissions are made by Purple Heart recipients, their families, or friends. Currently, there are 4,783 Purple Heart recipients enrolled from the great state of Ohio, representing: World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Somalia, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

These courageous men and women are recognized by the National Purple Heart Honor Mission, because surprisingly, the federal government does not maintain a comprehensive list. In fact, the only award for which there is a list, is the Medal of Honor.

Mr. Speaker, the National Purple Heart Honor Mission is an organization that deserves the recognition the commemorative coin will bring.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. BUCSHON. Madam Speaker, I was unfortunately unable to attend votes on Decem-

ber 4, 2020, due to unavoidable personal obligations. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 235.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RICHARD W. SCHMIDT

HON. HARLEY ROUDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of Richard W. Schmidt, who passed away peacefully on November 4, 2020, at the age of 90, with his wife and son by his side. A veteran, loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Richard will be dearly missed by his family and friends.

A graduate of Hoover High School in Glendale, California and an avid basketball player, Richard proudly served his country in the Korean War surviving freezing temperatures and combat as a sergeant in the U.S. Army. After the war, Richard returned home to work in the financial and real estate development sectors in Orange County.

Later in life, Richard loved to watch sports, play tennis, golf, and camp. Among his fishing buddies, he was known as "The Judge". After listening to one tall tale after another, he would annually award the coveted Fisherman of the Year trophy. After a few toasts around the campfire, Richard would climb into his sleeping bag for a well-deserved rest.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring and celebrating the life of Richard W. Schmidt for his service to our country, to his family, and to our community.

HONORING DICK STEPHENS' 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Mr. GARAMENDI, to recognize Mr. Dick Stephens on the occasion of his 100th birthday and celebrate his family's long legacy of shipbuilding in California. Dick is a world champion sailor, designer, and shipwright in addition to a proud husband and family man.

Dick was born into a boat-building family and gained an appreciation for the trade from a young age. He was always curious and felt at home playing in his father's boatyard. In 1928, at the tender age of 8, Dick salvaged a boat and transformed it, all while ingrain in him a passion for boats.

At the end of World War II, Dick and his three brothers, Theo and Barre took over their uncle Roy Stephens' company, The Stephens Brothers Boat Builders and Designers Company. Their uncle oversaw the construction and launching of over 700 vessels. The Stephens brothers contracted with the military during the Korean War and beginning of Cold War hostilities in 1953. They built many ships for the U.S. military during this period. In the 1960s, the brothers sold their company to the Wrather Corporation. After a short while, they

bought the company back and quickly gained customers with their quality work. Dick was known for always intently listening to his customers and making their dream yachts come to life, while using the finest materials. They built 19 Farallone Clippers and won races in one of his vessels many times on the San Francisco Bay.

In the 1960's, boat design was shifted to angular cruiser loops, and Dick's cruisers continued on into the 1970's like the 48' *Triple Crown*. In 1974, the Stephens Brothers created their very last wooden boat, the 50' *Egret*. A new era of aluminum and fiberglass began grabbing the attention of many designers. In 1975, they launched its first aluminum hull yacht. This success created over 20 more pieces of finely engineered art, with the start of the 85' *Defiance*, one of their most popular pieces of work. After 85 years of success, it was decided in the spring of 1987 that the Stephens Brothers would close their business.

Throughout his career, Dick has always had his loving wife Donna by his side. Many have enjoyed his pieces of art in his shipbuilding skills. In addition to shipbuilding, Dick is also a world champion sailor. He won a three-race series in the International Open Cass with a boat he designed, *Opps*.

Madam Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join us in celebrating Dick Stephens' 100th birthday and his work to further the shipbuilding industry. His love for boats and his customers endures to this day and he continues to be embraced by boat lovers far and wide. We ask that you join us in wishing Dick and his family continued health, happiness and success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I was unfortunately prevented from traveling and unable to make votes on December 3, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted against ordering the previous questions on H. Res. 1244, against adoption of H. Res. 1244, and in favor of H.R. 1380.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF JIMMY WISE

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Jimmy Wise of Ackerman, Mississippi who passed away Sunday, November 29.

Born on January 6, 1941, to John David and Jimmie Aline Wise, Jimmy was raised with a passion for sports. He graduated from Provine High School in Jackson in 1959 before matriculating to Mississippi State University to join the basketball team. He played for one year before becoming the team manager. He held this position from 1961 to 1963 when MSU earned the title of SEC champions. In 1963,

Jimmy graduated and moved to Pontotoc to coach basketball, football, and tennis.

On June 20, 1965, Jimmy Wise married Beverly Hester. The family soon relocated to Memphis where Jimmy began his forty-year career with Temple Inland, Inc. They relocated to Pontotoc and began coaching Little League baseball. Jimmy enjoyed nothing more than attending Mississippi State football, basketball, and baseball games and watching his sons play sports. He was deeply involved with the local Baptist church as a deacon, Sunday school teacher, and served on multiple committees.

Jimmy is survived by his wife Beverly; son, Rhett; son, Scott; son, Reagan; son, Josh; and ten grandchildren. He impacted countless lives across the state of Mississippi and beyond, and will be celebrated by all those who had an opportunity to know and love him.

Jimmy Wise lived a profound life marked by service, dedication, and commitment to family. He will be greatly missed.

IN HONOR OF JANET BORGENS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding service of Janet Borgens, departing member of the city council of Redwood City. She leaves the council after five years of service and after more than ten years on the city's planning commission. The community owes her a tremendous debt for the countless hours she has served.

Janet grew up a few miles away in East Palo Alto where she went to local elementary, middle and high schools. In 1969, she moved to Redwood City and put down roots in part by buying a hair salon. As a single mother, she needed the flexibility of owning her own shop and setting her own hours.

I first got to know Janet when she came to my office in the state legislature to advocate on behalf of cosmetologists. She has always been a consumer advocate and her efforts on behalf of clients improved the health and safety of both clients and practitioners. As the owner of a small business, she also became aware of the impact of city government on local establishments.

Ultimately, she was selected to serve on the Redwood City Senior Affairs commission, the Housing and Human Concerns committee and the planning commission. Through these positions of progressively greater responsibility she came to understand the needs of various populations of her community.

Redwood City is a thriving city of 86,000 persons located 15 miles south of San Francisco Airport and a few minutes north of Facebook. Within the city's boundaries are the headquarters of Oracle and Box.com, many pharmaceutical companies, and the Chan-Zuckerberg Initiative. Redwood City is also the county seat of San Mateo County, hosting the county government center, jail and numerous other county agencies.

Downtown has exploded in population during this past decade as employers seek to locate near its heavily utilized train and bus lines. 48 percent of adults age 25 and older have a college degree, and housing costs re-

flect this high-earning cohort. Median rental costs are \$2,100 per month for an apartment, necessitating an annual income of at least \$76,000.

Officially, 10 percent of the population lives in poverty but since the official poverty level is not reflective of reality in Redwood City, the actual population living in poverty is likely greater. Non-college educated adults working in the service sector and recent immigrants often struggle to make ends meet.

The hallmark of Janet's service is her consistent advocacy on behalf of wage-earning families who struggle with the cost of living in the city. She's been outspoken about her support for affordable housing, repeatedly voting to allow affordable developments in the community. In recent council discussions about establishing a safe site for recreational vehicle living, Janet wanted to be sure that fines for failing to heed the city's overnight parking ordinance were not ruinous.

Her work on the Bayfront Canal is a special example of her concern for low income residents. I've visited the Redwood City trailer parks, filled with wage-earning families and retirees, that are flooded almost every year because the canal overflows. This project was not fully funded but Janet and the city kept at it, eventually raising the money needed to fix the problem. She will leave office just as permits allowing construction may be issued.

Through her council duties, she currently serves on the San Francisco Airport Community Roundtable, various Caltrain-related committees, and she is an active CERT trainer. Her commitment to the community is truly noteworthy. For 20 years, she led the American Cancer Society's Wig Bank, work which earned her honors. She has long worked with the homeless by packing and distributing meals, collecting clothing, and by working with the Salvation Army. She raises funds for college scholarships and is an active member of the Peninsula Sunrise Rotary Club.

Madam Speaker, after five years on the city council and decades of service to the community, Janet is now leaving public life. She and her husband Milt, a former police officer, will have additional time to spend with their three children and four grandchildren. Her neighborhood of Friendly Acres has many remaining challenges, but residents will always have an advocate because her love of Redwood City is genuine and unwavering. Even out of the public eye, Janet Borgens will remain in service to the public and its future. It has been my honor to serve with her.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was not present for roll call votes on December 3, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 230; NAY on Roll Call No. 231; and NAY on Roll Call No. 232.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED BUDD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I missed votes last week because I tested positive for the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 230; NAY on Roll Call No. 231; NAY on Roll Call No. 232; NAY on Roll Call No. 233; YEA on Roll Call No. 234; and NAY on Roll Call No. 235.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I was absent for the votes scheduled on Friday, December 4, 2020, due to a conflict in my schedule. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 233; YEA on Roll Call No. 234; and NAY on Roll Call No. 235.

VICTORVILLE MAYOR GLORIA GARCIA RETIRES

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the retirement of Gloria Garcia from the Victorville City Council.

Mayor Gloria Garcia was born and raised in Victorville, CA. Gloria attended Victor Valley Sr. High School, Victor Valley College, and Skadron College of Business. She was elected to the Victorville City Council in November 2012 and was appointed Mayor by her fellow Council Members in December 2014. She was reelected in 2016, and continuously reappointed as Mayor by her colleagues on the council. Gloria's time on the council has been marked by many successes in Victorville. Her focus on public safety, new infrastructure, road maintenance has led to great improvements and safer neighborhoods in Victorville.

Mayor Garcia has served the council with honor and integrity, and her commitment to good government and transparency has served the citizens of Victorville well. Although her second term has seen Victorville and its Council experience discord and disruption, Gloria has remained steadfast and focused on working for the people of Victorville. I will truly miss Gloria's face on the council dais, and I wish much happiness and success in her future.

HONORING THE LIFE OF EDWARD LANE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of longtime Fresnan and Pearl

Harbor survivor, Edward Lane, who passed away on September 6, 2020. He was a proud husband, father, public servant, leader and a survivor.

Edward was born on December 2, 1936 in San Francisco, California. Although he was not born in Fresno, he always considered it home. Growing up, he frequently moved across the country due to his father's military career, but he always returned to Fresno. He graduated from San Joaquin Memorial High School in 1954 and attended Fresno State in 1958 with a degree in marketing.

Edward's life took an interesting journey, beginning with the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. His father was responsible for overseeing a military hospital in Hickam Field, Hawaii when World War II began. His home was only two blocks away from Pearl Harbor. During the attack, an anti-aircraft shell landed on his family's house. Fortunately, it did not explode and he survived. Telling the "December 7th story" was an annual event for the family.

Edward often thanked his parents and big brother, Mike, for teaching him work ethic. These skills led him to his 36-year career with the State of California's Employment Development Department (EDD). He was appointed by several governors to serve in many senior management positions during his tenure. He worked to establish EDD as an important and active asset in communities throughout the state and maintained his belief in the positive power of government to respond to the needs of individuals and the community at large.

Edward was a big sports fan. A Fresno State season ticket holder for over 60 years, he rarely missed home football and basketball games. However, his biggest passion was tennis. He was active on and off the court for over 47 years in the Fresno tennis community. He captained two teams that won national championships and served as a club president. He loved animals and had pets ranging from dogs, cats, to a small rhesus monkey from South Africa.

Edward is survived by his wife and best friend for over 60 years, Jean Lane; children Brian, Valerie, and David; grandchildren Michael, Nicholas and Alyssa Bavaro; son-in-law Vince Bavaro; and daughter-in-law Lucy Gonzalez.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating and honoring the life of Mr. Edward Lane. His leadership and story will be remembered for many years to come. We join his family, friends and community in honoring his great life and legacy.

HONORING THE STAFF MEMBERS REPRESENTING CALIFORNIA'S 21ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. TJ COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. COX of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the individuals who dedicated their time and talents to the constituents of California's 21st Congressional District. During my time in office, my staff made incredible strides in improving the lives of thousands of people, and it did not go unnoticed. I want to recognize and thank the following individuals for their service and dedica-

tion to helping others with great gratitude for a job well done:

Christopher Bornmann; Gilbert Felix; Gabriel Garcia-Contreras; François Genard; Andrew Godinich; Jared Henderson; Rebecca Kahn; Joel Kasnetz; Joseph Lopez; John Lynch; Lindsey Madrigal; Lucine Mikhajian; Araceli Muñoz; Nandini Narayan; Virginia Peñaloza; Fabiola Rodriguez; Cody Sedaño; Amanda Stayton; and Jannett Tapia.

My staff went above and beyond to serve our district by developing meaningful legislation, completing hundreds of casework, answering thousands of constituent inquiries, keeping in contact with constituents both in person and through media, and much more.

Because of their efforts, we accomplished incredible things in the 116th Congress. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring these public servants and giving them the recognition they deserve.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF ROBERT PITTS

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Robert Pitts. Bob represents the best of our greatest generation, and I am forever indebted to him for his service to this nation. As a fellow member of the 150th Combat Engineer Battalion, I am grateful for the precedent set by these brave soldiers.

Bob was born in 1923, the second oldest of ten siblings. In the height of the Great Depression, Bob often found himself working odd jobs after school to support his family. In the 8th grade he dropped out and attended Boston Trade School to train as an electrician.

In 1943, Bob enlisted in the United States Army. After training in Ft. Devens, he joined the 150th Engineer Battalion, an experimental unit comprised mostly of New England locals. After Basic and Engineering Training, Bob relocated to New York to continue his training as an electrician. The outfit returned from West Virginia and trained in a mock German village at Camp Edwards. On Christmas, Bob deployed with the 150th on the Queen Mary to Europe.

While overseas, Bob was assigned as battalion photographer. His duties included taking photos of unit operations, which often placed him in the line of fire. He was awarded the Bronze Star for actions under fire while operating in Germany. He was also awarded the rank of Tech5. After VE Day, TSGT 5 Pitts and his unit were sent to Czechoslovakia and returned to the states with different outfits. What distinguishes the 150th is their continued relationship. For more than sixty years the unit enjoyed annual gatherings. After the war, Bob pursued his interest in engineering at MIT. He worked on some of the earliest computers and earned the title Electronic Engineer Assistant.

Mr. Pitts was married to Eleanor M. Hathaway for 48 years before her passing in 1998. Together, they had three children; Robert, Nancy, and Richard. His youngest built and maintains the webpage for the 150th battalion, honoring his father's memory and the accomplishments of the unit.

Robert Pitts was an outstanding man dedicated to family, faith, and country. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

REMARKS BY REPRESENTATIVE
JARED HUFFMAN HONORING
MAYOR GARY PHILLIPS

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Gary Phillips as he retires a distinguished tenure of public service as Mayor of the City of San Rafael.

Mayor Phillips earned his undergraduate degree and Master of Business Administration from Humboldt State University. He applied his education throughout his professional career as a certified public accountant and business executive as well as an elected official. He and his wife Linda settled in San Rafael 48 years ago. They proceeded to raise a family and became committed to improving the quality of life for the residents of San Rafael.

Mayor Phillips' first role as an elected official for the San Rafael community was as a member of the former Dixie School Board, where he served for eight years, including twice as president. He was elected to the City Council in 1994 and served three terms before retiring in 2007. In 2011, he decided to run for Mayor when Mayor Al Boro retired after nearly 20 years of service. As an elected official, Mayor Phillips drew upon his business acumen, standing up for small businesses, working to improve education, and responding to the changing needs of the community.

Over the years, Mayor Phillips developed a deep record for going to bat for San Rafael residents, demonstrating steady leadership through trying times. This includes navigating financial challenges, homelessness and housing, securing funding to improve fire service, and the challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. At every critical moment Mayor Phillips has worked to provide the people of San Rafael with the support and resources they need. He is also known at City Hall for his ability to form consensus and adhere to principles, and for his thoughtful, hands-on approach to leadership—invaluable qualities in a mayor.

It has been my pleasure to work closely with Mayor Phillips' on a number of key issues, including homelessness, gun violence reform, discrimination, and securing funds to dredge the San Rafael Canal. I have also had the pleasure of working with him in his role as Chair of the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) to find solutions for rail and multimodal transportation through the downtown.

Mayor Gary Phillips has been an unwavering champion for his community across his nearly 30 years, and I am certain his public service is not complete. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join me in honoring him for his many positive contributions to the residents of San Rafael and the entire North Bay Area and in wishing him well in his next endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was not present for roll call votes on December 2, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 228.

IN HONOR OF DENNIS MCBRIDE

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dennis McBride as he leaves the Board of Education of the Redwood City Elementary School District after serving 17 years. This brief introduction of Dennis does not begin to do him justice.

Let me offer you the image of the Energizer Bunny, unceasingly banging on a drum and looking a bit cool at the same time. This is Dennis. Let me also acknowledge that this might be the only time that comments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD refer to a Certified Public Accountant as "cool." The word fits Dennis.

He began his love affair with education as a parent volunteer with the cooperative preschools in which his two children were students. He then hopped to the nearby elementary school where he became active in the site council and organized field trips, such as when he took a class to visit a leading computer manufacturer. He served on the site councils of every school attended by his two children. While some parents coach soccer, Dennis coached other parents and teachers in how to solve problems, raise funds, helped teachers, and did so much more. That's a drum-banging, cool dad.

As a CPA, Dennis volunteered his professional talents for numerous parcel tax and bond measures. The funds raised built classrooms throughout the elementary and high school districts and sustained the curriculum to the best degree possible despite economic circumstances. It is estimated that over 25,000 pre-K through eighth grade students, and additional high school and community college students, were benefitted by Dennis' work. In the buildings created, in the music programs sustained, in the special education students aided, and in dozens of other ways large and small, Dennis created a legacy that will last for at least two generations.

Dennis has always been unassuming in his collaborative ventures with other school district trustees from around the county, but many eventually made their way to Dennis as they sought answers to tough financial and personnel issues. For years he's been a leader within the San Mateo County School Boards Association, going so far as to find new leaders for recognition through the association's annual Kent Award.

How much energy does this man exude? Well, ask yourself, how many school district trustees visit nighttime staff to see how they are holding up? How many trustees show up in the morning at dangerous intersections to

witness what parents are worried about? How many trustees visit every school in the district, check out cafeterias, write handwritten thank you notes to teachers, staff and parents? Many would show up at school events when invited, but how many are known on campuses where middle schoolers call out their names? This is Redwood City's public servant, Dennis McBride.

Not content to contribute to his community solely through its schools, Dennis served as the treasurer or board member or both for multiple community organizations including the Police Activities League, the workforce housing committee of the school board, and on the board overseeing faculty/staff housing for the San Mateo County Community College District. He's also served on the education advisory committees of two members of the state legislature and as treasurer for the Sequoia Awards, a community scholarship program recognizing low income high school students with big college or technical education dreams.

Dennis McBride's contributions don't end with education. From 2006 to 2013, he served as treasurer for the Santa Clara University Law School Board of the Northern California Innocence Project and on the Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula.

In all those cartoonish ads for batteries, some of the other bunnies run out of juice but the Energizer Bunny keeps going. In contrast, I think even the Energizer Bunny would give up before Dennis McBride. It has been my privilege and honor to serve with Dennis. We are sorry to see him go, and so sad that his drum will not be beating for us again. We wish Dennis, his wife, Lori, and his sons Cory and Casey much happiness in the coming years.

Madam Speaker, a one-man band has now retired from public life, but the beat goes on because everyone wants to make Dennis proud as they follow his lead, his laughter, and his kind heart.

FROM HAARETZ: "ISRAEL'S WAR ON PALESTINIAN CHILDREN" BY GIDEON LEVY

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, when military force and violence are used to oppress, dehumanize, and deny fundamental human rights to an entire civilian population—women, men, and children—it is an injustice that is antithetical to America's values and our self-proclaimed belief in promoting dignity, equality, and justice for all. The Israeli military occupation of Palestine is such an injustice. Settlement expansion, home demolitions, the military detention of children and state sponsored violence are the weapons used as Israel seeks to annex Palestinian land and destroy any prospects for Palestinian self-determination.

The violence used by Israel against Palestinians, especially children, is shocking and abhorrent. Late last week a particularly grotesque act of state sponsored violence took place when a 13 year-old Palestinian boy living under military occupation in the West Bank

was shot in the abdomen by an Israeli soldier. The child, Ali Abu Aalya, later died.

According to a statement from the United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF, issued on December 4, 2020, "A 13 year-old Palestinian boy was shot and killed today in the West Bank in the State of Palestine. In the past two weeks, four other Palestinian children were shot and severely injured in the West Bank . . ."

The UNICEF statement continues, "From January to September this year, according to UN data to date, 232 incidents involving the injury of Palestinian children, some of whom sustained long-term damage. UNICEF urges Israeli authorities to fully respect, protect, and fulfil the rights of all children and refrain from using violence against children, in accordance with international law."

Such a rebuke from UNICEF, calling on Israel, a U.S. ally that receives \$3.8 billion in U.S. taxpayer funded military assistance, to "refrain from using violence against children" should make every Member of Congress and American citizen question whether U.S. military assistance is being used to injure and kill Palestinian children.

I strongly urge the incoming administration of President-Elect Biden to investigate Israel's killing of Ali Abu Aalya, as well as Israel's ongoing pattern of using state sponsored military violence against Palestinian children. Members of Congress and the American people deserve to know whether U.S. taxpayer funding to Israel's Ministry of Defense is being used directly or indirectly to facilitate or enable violence against Palestinian children. Committing human rights abuses with impunity and with U.S. taxpayer aid is intolerable and there must be accountability on the part of the U.S. Government.

Earlier this year, I introduced H.R. 2407, Promoting Human Rights for Palestinian Children Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act. The bill deems the military detention of children a gross human rights violation and prohibits U.S. aid to support, enable, or facilitate such abuse of children. The military detention of children is a systemic practice of the Government of Israel used against Palestinian children as a tactic that violates international humanitarian law in order to maintain a permanent military occupation of Palestinian lands. There are twenty-four courageous colleagues who have joined me as co-sponsors of H.R. 2407 and I am deeply appreciative of their commitment to defending human rights and the rights of children.

"Israel's War on Palestinian Children" was published on December 5th in the Israeli newspaper HAARETZ. In a column by Gideon Levy, the systemic brutality and violence inflicted on Palestinian children by the Government of Israel is described. Mr. Levy writes about his own country, Israel, this way: "What would you think of a regime that allows the shooting of children, that abducts them in their sleep and razes their schools? That's exactly what you must think of the regime here in our country."

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD Mr. Levy's powerfully honest column. I would like Members to read this column and answer Mr. Levy's question: What would you think of a government that allows the shooting of children?

[HAARETZ.com, Dec. 5, 2020]

ISRAEL'S WAR ON PALESTINIAN CHILDREN

(By Gideon Levy)

Last week, we were in the Al-Aroub refugee camp, searching for an open area in which to sit, for fear of the coronavirus. There wasn't one. In a camp in which house touches house, whose alleys are the width of a man and strewn with garbage, there's nowhere to sit outside. One can only dream of a garden or a bench; there isn't even a sidewalk. This is where Basel al-Badawi lives. A year ago, soldiers shot his brother dead, before his eyes, for no reason. Two weeks ago, Basel was snatched from his bed on a cold night and taken, barefoot, for questioning. We sat in his family's cramped home and realized there was no "out" to go to. While we were there, Israeli soldiers blocked the entrance to the camp, as they occasionally do, arbitrarily, and the sense of suffocation only grew.

This is Basel's world and this is his reality. He is 16, a bereaved brother, who was abducted from his bed in the dark of night by soldiers. He has nowhere to go to except for school, which is closed for part of the week due to COVID-19. Basel is free now, more fortunate than certain other children and teenagers. Around 170 of them are currently detained in Israel. Other children are shot by soldiers, wounded and sometimes killed, with no distinction made between children and adults—a Palestinian is a Palestinian—or between a life-threatening situation and a "public disturbance."

On Friday they killed Ali Abu Alia, a 13-year-old boy. It was a lethal shot to the abdomen. No one could remain indifferent to the sight of his innocent face in photographs, and his last picture—in a shroud, his face exposed, his eyes closed, as he was carried to burial in his village. Ali, as he did every week, went with his friends to demonstrate against the wild and violent outposts that sprouted out of the settlement of Kokhav Hashahar, taking over the remaining land of his village, al-Mughayir. There is nothing more just than the struggle of this village, there is nothing more heinous than the use of lethal force against protesters and there is no possibility that shooting Ali in the abdomen could have been justifiable. In Israel, of course, no one showed any interest over the weekend in the death of a child, one more child.

Up until the current school year, around 50 children from the herding community of Ras a-Tin studied at the school in al-Mughayir, the village of the deceased boy. They had to walk about 15 kilometers (9.3 miles) each day, round trip, to attend. This year their parents, with the help of a European Commission aid organization based in Italy, built them a modest, charming school in the village. Israel's Civil Administration is threatening to demolish it, and in the meantime it is harassing the pupils and teachers with surprise visits to check whether the toilets had been, God forbid, connected to a water pipe—in a village that was never connected to the power grid or the water supply. The children of Ras a-Tin must have known Ali, their former classmate, now dead.

The children did not know Malek Issa, of Isawiyah, in East Jerusalem. The 9-year-old boy lost an eye after it was hit by a sponge-tipped bullet fired by an Israeli police officer. On Thursday the Justice Ministry department that examines allegations of police misconduct announced that no one would be charged in the shooting, after 10 months of intensive investigation. It was enough for the policemen involved to claim that stones had been thrown at them, perhaps one of them hit the boy. But no video shows stones

being thrown, nor is there any other evidence of this. Ali's killers can also sleep in peace: No one will prosecute them. All they did was to kill a Palestinian child.

These and many other incidents are taking place during a period that is among the quietest in the West Bank. This is the terror taking place, committed by the state. When we hear of such incidents in vicious dictatorships—children who are snatched from their beds in the middle of the night, one boy who was shot in the eye, another who was shot and killed—it sends shivers down our spine. Shooting at demonstrators? At children? Where do such things happen? Not in some faraway land, but rather just an hour's drive from your home; not in some dark regime, but in the only democracy.

What would you think of a regime that allows the shooting of children, that abducts them in their sleep and razes their schools? That's exactly what you must think of the regime here in our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, due to a test indicating a positive result for a COVID-19 infection during the most recent district work period, I was unable to travel to the Capitol to vote on December 4, 2020.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 233; YEA on Roll Call No. 234; and NAY on Roll Call No. 235.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BOYD GRANT

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a former Fresno State basketball coach, Mr. Boyd Grant, who passed away at the age of 87. He was a father, friend and one of the finest coaches in history.

Boyd, who grew up in the agricultural region of Idaho, had a love for basketball. He played for three seasons at Colorado State University as a guard, after transferring from Snow College in Utah. After college, he returned to his alma mater to serve as the assistant basketball coach, a position he held for nearly 12 years. In 1961, the teams coached by he and legendary Coach Jim Williams, won a conference championship and participated in four NCAA tournaments.

From 1972 to 1974, Mr. Grant served as an assistant coach at the University of Kentucky, before beginning his head coaching career at the College of Southern Idaho, a junior college that he led to a national championship a year later.

Boyd furthered his career by serving as a highly successful head coach at California State University, Fresno. During his tenure, he led the Bulldogs to three Western Athletic Conference championships, three NCAA Tournaments and the 1983 NIT Championship. He was inducted to the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame in 1993. He was also inducted into the

Colorado State Athletics Hall of Fame and the National Junior College Basketball Hall of Fame.

Boyd's leadership and coaching strengthened Fresno State's basketball program. The team led the nation in scoring and defense in his first season and were ranked in the top 10 in every one of his nine years as coach. His career at Fresno State included a record of 194–74 over his nine seasons, including the winning the NIT championship in 1983 and earning spots in the NCAA Tournament in 1981, 1982, and in 1984.

He left Fresno State in 1986 and a year later, was named head coach at Colorado State, where he led the Rams to two NCAA tournaments within the four years he was there. After a long and successful career, he retired from coaching in 1991.

Boyd impacted the lives of people who surrounded him, with many of his former students describing him as a father. Boyd lived a great life doing what he loved the most, coaching and playing basketball.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Jean; their son, Kevin, and two daughters Leslie and Lori.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating and honoring the life of a basketball legend, Mr. Boyd Grant. His teachings and legacy will be remembered for many years to come. We join his family, friends and community in honoring his great life and legacy.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF TIMOTHY BISHOP

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Timothy Bishop, who passed away Tuesday, November 17 at the age of 64.

Timothy was born in May of 1956 in El Paso, Texas to Martha and Graham Bishop. For six years, Mr. Bishop served his country in the United States Navy as an E–5 Pettie Officer First Class. He soon joined the Mississippi Army National Guard and served three years as a Sergeant. After 25 years of dedicated service, Timothy retired from Day-Brite.

In addition to his military and community service, Timothy Bishop was an avid sportsman. He was a competitive shooter, hunter, and a life endorsement member of the NRA. Mr. Bishop also served as a Golden Eagle sponsor for youth NRA programs.

Mr. Bishop is preceded in death by his wife, Jonnie Fay Umfress Bishop and his father. He is survived by his mother, Martha Bishop; his son, Jamie; his daughter, Katie; three siblings, and four grandchildren.

It is because of selfless individuals like Mr. Bishop, who dedicate their lives to protecting this great nation that we can boast the liberties we most value. I am grateful for his service and share my deepest condolences with his family and loved ones.

HONORING MIDSHIPMAN 1ST CLASS SYDNEY BARBER

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Midshipman First Class Sydney Barber, the first Black female to be selected as Brigade Commander at the United States Naval Academy, the highest leadership position within the student body.

A native of Lake Forest, Illinois, Midshipman Barber graduated from Lake Forest High School in 2017. As a mechanical engineering major at the Naval Academy who has been selected to commission into the U.S. Marine Corps, Midshipman Barber has been on the Superintendent's list. She completed a 7-week internship with the Department of Energy's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory where she was instrumental in breakthrough research on bio-electrochemical uses for carbon nanotubes.

Midshipman Barber was named a 2020 Truman Scholar National Finalist, focusing her research on developing legislative strategies to address education disparities in minority communities. She has created a STEM outreach program that leveraged mentoring, literature, and service lessons to benefit middle-school aged girls of color. She also helped create the Midshipman Diversity Team, made up of more than 180 midshipmen, faculty, and alumni, to promote diversity, inclusion and equality within the brigade.

Amid these efforts, Midshipman Barber served as the plebe summer 13th Company Executive Officer and currently serves as the brigade's 1st Regimental Executive Officer. She is the co-President of the Navy Fellowship of Christian Athletes Club and the Secretary for the National Society of Black Engineers Club. She belongs to the gospel choir and the Midshipman Black Studies Club.

A walk-on sprinter and hurdler on the Academy's varsity track and field team, Midshipman Barber currently holds the record for the outdoor 4x400 meter relay.

As Brigade Commander, Midshipman Barber will head the Academy's day-to-day activities and train approximately 4,500 midshipmen. Midshipman Barber will be just the 16th woman selected for this position in the 44 years that women have been attending the Naval Academy.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me today in honoring the achievement of Midshipman First Class Sydney Barber. Her service to our country is deserving of the utmost gratitude. On behalf of my colleagues on the Board of Visitors, I offer her our sincerest congratulations and best wishes for a successful tenure as Brigade Commander.

HONORING RECIPIENTS OF THE INNOVATION AND ADAPTATION RECOGNITION

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, today I honor nine individuals and businesses

from Nebraska's Third District for receiving the Innovation and Adaptation Recognition.

Throughout the 75 counties of the Third District, Nebraskans know our communities grow when individuals step up: helping their neighbors, being involved, and creating opportunities for themselves and others.

In August, I called for nominations as part of a new initiative to acknowledge the contributions of individuals, organizations, and those who are working every day to improve and help their communities in the current environment.

Billy Estes is the Executive Director of the Midwest Theater of Scottsbluff. Midwest Theater's programming, which includes live performances, orchestras, and concerts, makes an important contribution to the cultural and social experiences of Nebraska's panhandle. When the Coronavirus pandemic reached western Nebraska, under the guidance of Mr. Estes, the Midwest Theater partnered with the Legacy of the Plains Museum to create the Skyview Drive-in Movie Theater. As the pandemic progressed, this venture proved so popular they outgrew their location and had to move to larger accommodations. Thanks to the creativity and leadership of Mr. Estes, in spite of the pandemic, the Midwest Theater has continued to thrive throughout 2020.

Grand Central Foods of York is owned by the Warren Thomas family. Mr. Thomas prides himself on his commitment to the York community. In "normal" times, Warren and the Grand Central Team are the first to ask where they can help with a project or how can they partner on events. The selflessness shown by everyone at Grand Central is a testament to the example of the ownership. Within a few days of the pandemic's arrival to York, Warren purchased a second grocery delivery van, and expanded his service to the entire community. Because Warren believes in positive reinforcement, he encouraged his customers to wear a mask while in his store by offering a 5 percent discount on their purchases. He is an active member of many community groups, and his passion and commitment to his community is unmatched.

Alyssa Cochnar of Crete is the leader of Gold Star Martial Arts of Crete and Seward. At 26 years old, she is already a 5th degree black belt, chief instructor, and co-owner of the martial arts facility. When directed health measures forced Gold Star to close in-person training classes, she spearheaded the process of creating online modules for her students to continue their training independently. Before long, she began offering Zoom Classes to provide her students with another safe and flexible option to continue their training and explore expanded experiences to encourage healthy eating habits and socialization while social distancing. I commend her positive attitude and commitment to an enriching educational experience for all her students, regardless of their experience level.

Bryce Jensen is the Director of the World Theatre of Kearney. His adaptability, especially during the pandemic, demonstrates his commitment to his community. Though the organization he operates, the World Theatre, was closed due to the pandemic, his outside of the box thinking inspired him to create, through strategic community collaborations, a World Theatre drive-in. Not only would this ensure the World Theatre could still bring respite to many during these trying times, but it restored a drive-in movie experience to the

Kearney region, reminding many of the happy memories of their youth.

Kirk Zeller grew up in the community of Ravenna, Nebraska. After high school, he attended university and later worked in the medical field in Japan. Kirk returned to the United States, first living in California before returning to his hometown of Ravenna to raise his family. Since returning to Ravenna he has turned the former Carnegie library into an entrepreneurship center, purchased a downtown building and renovated the upper story apartment. He recently directed a movie in Ravenna and Los Angeles which premiered at the Kearney World Theatre's drive-in, all while working on bringing new medical products to the market. He is a great story of returning to small hometown Nebraska and reinvesting in his community.

Dick Cochran of Kearney founded the non-profit Hot Meals USA in October 2017. By February 2018, he signed a memorandum of understanding with the American Red Cross to call on him for assistance in wildfires, floods, tornadoes and other disasters. Every time Dick and Hot Meals USA are called upon, no less than 150 volunteers have supported the program. Since their inception, the policy has been to feed anyone, no questions asked. In just over three years, they have provided more than 155,000 meals across the country.

John McCoy is the CEO of Orthman Manufacturing of Lexington. He embraced the opportunity to help feed families that come from a poverty background in the Lexington area. When he first brought in Hot Meals USA to the community, his business, Orthman Manufacturing, partnered with the Lexington Community Foundation and others to provide over 1,000 hot meals on a weekly basis to families. He then made feeding the community a priority as he and his employees took the lead to distribute USDA food boxes. When schools reopened in August, John was there for the community again. He donated 3,700 masks to Lexington Public Schools to make sure no student was unprepared for their school experience. John's actions represent his commitment to all members of the Lexington community.

Anthony May of Hastings is an entrepreneur. When the pandemic forced the taproom of Steeple Brewery Anthony co-owns to close, he quickly responded. Collaborating with Wave Pizza Company, the brewery's restaurant partner, he developed a community delivery program, which eventually offered their products to 21 communities in south-central Nebraska. This innovative program ensured many Nebraskans, whose communities either do not have a grocery or now lacked a local place to eat due to the pandemic, had ready access to an easy to use food delivery program.

Matt Dennis and Michael Stepp are more than small town business owners; they are master story tellers with a dream. What began as two friends making copper mugs in an old shop has turned into an opportunity to reshape the meaning of community. When they purchased the building they now call Handlebend, their goal was to create a community of small businesses under one roof and welcome the community with open arms to come and enjoy a mule, coffee, or gather and with friends and family. Though the Coronavirus pandemic has caused the Handlebend community to adapt their ap-

proach, the dreams of these men to create an innovative experience for the O'Neill community continue.

I am proud to honor these individuals today, and I thank them for their many contributions to Nebraska.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GUY RESCIENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. RESCIENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House on December 4, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 233; YEA on Roll Call No. 234; and NAY on Roll Call No. 235.

HONORING ELLEN DUNLAP

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, it is a great honor to rise today in recognition of Ellen Dunlap of West Boylston, Massachusetts, who is stepping down as President of the American Antiquarian Society after 28 extraordinary years in that position.

America's history, Madam Speaker, is our greatest natural resource. It speaks to us across the years and serves as a source of great inspiration and hope for people across this country. It is an acknowledgement of America's triumphs and our imperfections; a reminder of who we are and who we're called to be.

Ellen is the President of the American Antiquarian Society—a remarkable institution in Worcester, Massachusetts founded by Revolutionary War patriot and printer Isaiah Thomas in 1812 and dedicated to preserving our treasured history. The Society serves as an incomparable resource for scholars and historians and a preeminent and comprehensive depository of American history and culture that is unparalleled in size and scope.

As President—the first woman to hold that post, by the way—Ellen has spent her career not only preserving our past but bringing it to life in a way that truly excites others. Ellen's work and leadership are extraordinary, she has the incredible talent and vision to clarify and animate history so that all of us can better understand and learn from our collective past. She has worked tirelessly to open up the Society's extraordinary archives to a wider audience, including teachers, scholars, artists, and writers. Under her leadership, the Society undertook a massive effort to digitizing their collections. Ellen also spearheaded the construction of a major expansion and renovation of the Society's home at Antiquarian Hall and has sought to engage the Worcester community in new and exciting ways like free public programs and partnerships with cultural groups.

Ellen has chaired the board of the Worcester Cultural Coalition and the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities, and she has advised many prestigious institutions such as the Library of Congress and George Washing-

ton's Mount Vernon. Ellen's vision and leadership earned the American Antiquarian Society a National Humanities Medal from President Barack Obama in 2013.

Madam Speaker, there is so much more I could say about how grateful I am that Ellen has devoted her life to preserving our American story and how lucky we are that the American Antiquarian Society calls Worcester home. But let me end on a personal note to say that Ellen is a treasured friend and a wonderful person, I'm grateful that I've had the privilege of getting to know and work with her, and I know she will continue to give back to our community in the years ahead.

On behalf of the United States Congress, the people of Massachusetts' Second Congressional District, and all the people who will benefit from her incredible work for generations to come, it is my great honor and privilege to recognize Ellen Dunlap and to thank her for her remarkable service to our community, our commonwealth, and our country.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF SADIE J. HOLLAND

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Sadie J. Holland, who passed away Tuesday, November 24 at North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo.

Sadie was born on January 31, 1933 to Joe Thomas and Christine Roebuck Monts. She grew up in the Palmetto community and attended Palmetto and Verona High School. On December 10, 1949, Sadie J. Monts married J.C. Holland and later moved to the Bass/Gandy farm south of Plantersville. Sadie J., J.C., and their six sons dwelled on the renowned "Sadie J. Farm" that stretched over 9,000 acres across three north Mississippi counties. In 1966, Sadie and J.C. were named Outstanding Farmers of America, the first Mississippians to earn the title. Her devotion to agriculture was exemplified by founding the first integrated 4H club in the state.

Mrs. Holland dedicated fifty years to public service and continued her family's legacy of egalitarianism. She became the first female school bus driver in the state, and in 1984 she was the first woman elected as Mayor of Nettleton. She relished the opportunity to serve her community, and for nearly two decades she was the Municipal Court administrator for the Tupelo Municipal Court. In 1998 she was elected Lee County Justice Court Judge before retiring just last year. She was a dedicated member of the United Methodist Church and took every opportunity to minister to her community through Holland Funeral Directors. In 2019, she was honored by the Mississippi Legislature for her lifetime of service to Mississippi.

Mrs. Holland is preceded in death by her husband J.C. who passed away in 2016.

She is survived by her sons Billy Joe, Don, Steve, Perry, John, and Jimmy, 21 grandchildren and 37 great-grandchildren.

Sadie J. Holland, the matriarch of a remarkable family, will be deeply missed by all those who had the opportunity to know her.

BIG CAT PUBLIC SAFETY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2020

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, as an original sponsor and a senior Member of the House of Representatives, I rise in strong support of this bipartisan bill, H.R. 1380, the "Big Cat Public Safety Act", which ends the ownership of dangerous big cats as pets as well as prohibits exhibitors from allowing public contact with cubs.

First and foremost, I would like to thank Congressman MIKE QUIGLEY for his leadership on this legislation.

Across the country, thousands of big cats like tigers, lions, leopards, and pumas are kept in miserable, insecure, and unsafe conditions by irresponsible owners.

These animals often come from a vicious cycle of breeding perpetuated by unscrupulous facilities looking to make a profit off of "cub petting" or photo opportunities.

It is an issue that causes immeasurable animal suffering and introduces inexcusable threats to human safety.

Big cats are wild animals and undoubtedly suffer when kept as pets.

They are often purchased as babies, and private owners are typically unable to manage them once they are fully grown.

As a result, the animals are frequently left to languish in grossly inadequate conditions, often being deprived of sufficient space, adequate veterinary care, a nutritious diet, and enrichment.

Furthermore, it is common procedure for some roadside zoos to inhumanely separate babies from their mothers, so that they can charge the public to pet and play with the cubs.

This is a cruel and unhealthy practice that can cause not only lifelong psychological problems but also premature death for the cubs.

These young cats quickly outgrow their usefulness in the cub handling industry and most often end up being sent to substandard "zoos," sold into the exotic pet trade, or possibly even killed and sold for parts.

This vicious cycle of exploitation and constant breeding must be stopped.

Currently, state laws regarding private ownership of big cats are inconsistent, and some states have few or no laws regarding the keeping of big cats.

Madam Speaker, a uniform federal law is necessary to end this dangerous industry once and for all.

The "Big Cat Public Safety Act" is a simple and straightforward solution to the devastating and growing crisis of negligent big cat breeding and ownership.

According to Big Cat Rescue, there have been more than 700 dangerous incidents in the U.S. involving big cats since 1990.

These incidents include hundreds of human injuries, maulings, and deaths.

In many of these cases, the animals were shot and killed, often by first responders who are not equipped to deal with these situations, thereby also putting them in harm's way.

Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have been a staunch advocate for protecting endangered species.

Most recently, I introduced H.R. 4804, "the ProTECT Act", which amends the Endangered Species Act of 1973 in order to prohibit the taking for a trophy of any endangered or threatened species of fish or wildlife in the United States and the importation of endangered and threatened species trophies into the United States.

H.R. 4804 is an updated version of my bill from the 114th Congress, H.R. 3448, the "Cecil the Lion Endangered and Threatened Species Act of 2015".

I was in Africa when the iconic Cecil the Lion, was murdered for sport.

It was a disgraceful act that showcased a complete lack of respect for these wondrous animals, and it compelled me to fiercely advocate for the preservation of our wildlife across the world.

Madam Speaker, today we have an important opportunity to once again come together and protect endangered species by passing H.R. 1380, the "Big Cat Public Safety Act".

For the safety of our first responders, of our community, and for these majestic animals, we need this vital piece of legislation.

I am honored to be a leader on this issue, and so I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in voting for H.R. 1380.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR.
ROBERT SHANKERMAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. COSTA. Madam, Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Mr. COX, to honor the life of a great doctor and San Joaquin Valley resident, Dr. Robert Shankerman, who passed away September 19, 2020. He was a father, brother, doctor and a caring leader in our community.

Robert was a renowned doctor who spent many years championing disadvantaged and rural communities. He graduated from Tulare University and completed his post-graduate education at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota; one of the nation's best hospitals.

Since 2014, Robert served at the United Health Centers (UHC). He was the Chief Medical Officer for UHC of San Joaquin Valley and was responsible for clinical operations at 21 health centers in the Central Valley. UHC provides services to more than 125,000 patients in Fresno, Tulare, and Kings counties.

During his time at UHC, Dr. Shankerman established the UHC/UCSF Family Practice Residency program at the Parlier Health Center, where he also provided services to patients. He recruited, trained and placed medical practitioners as the organization grew, which helped lead to its current success. While in this position, he mentored more than 155 medical professionals, including UHC medical staff, recent graduates from various residency programs, along with national and international transfers.

Robert was affiliated with the UC San Diego Medical School and served as an Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine. Previously he was Chief Medical Officer for Clinica Sierra Vista. He was a diplomat for the American Board of Internal Medicine and certified HIV specialist. In 2001, he was awarded the pres-

tigious physician recognition award from the American Medical Association.

Robert was highly respected by many people across the San Joaquin Valley. He dedicated most of his time treating and helping migrant workers and underprivileged communities. He worked long shifts ranging from 14 to 15-hour days and was committed to helping others.

He is survived by his partner of more than 20 years, Dr. Regis Debarros, a physician with United Health Centers; his father Floyd Shankerman, sister Cindy Loewenberg; and brothers Steven and Jason Shankerman.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join us in celebrating and honoring the life of a great champion and doctor, Dr. Robert Shankerman. His teachings and legacy will be remembered for many years to come. We join his family, friends and community in honoring his great life and legacy.

IN HONOR OF CATHERINE
MAHANPOUR

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Catherine Mahanpour for her service as she departs the city council of Foster City and the board of directors of the Estero Municipal Improvement District. As she leaves office, a dignified voice for neighborhoods and a high quality of life is departing.

Catherine graduated from the University of Maine in 1990 with high distinction and a B.A. in Political Science. Five years later she matriculated to Golden Gate University School of Law and attained her degree in 1998. She was licensed to practice in 1999. She served as an adjunct professor at her alma mater on multiple occasions since, and as a member of the Advisory Board of the California State Bar of the East Bay. Since 2013, she has been a court appointed special advocate for foster children in San Mateo County.

When she ran for election in 2015, Catherine stressed the need to prevent the "overgrowth" of Foster City and the deleterious impacts of traffic on the quality of life of residents. She called for a pause in housing construction and a dialogue with regional agencies to find choices about population growth that met the sensibilities of the neighborhoods she hoped to represent. She also called for a different tone in council meetings, urging respect for differing opinions during council meetings. She supported a local school bond and promised to watch over the funds should voters approve the measure.

During her service on the council, she was chair of the C/CAG legislative committee, the city's representative to the mosquito abatement district, and served on the county's long-range planning committee and the Silicon Valley Recovery Roundtable for COVID-19 Response. She was the driving force for the council's new Code of Conduct, adopted on November 2, 2020. She helped change the agenda-setting process and brought transparency to the process of setting agenda topics.

Foster City is laced with beautiful lagoons that are the responsibility of the city. Dangerous accidents can also happen on these

waterways and Catherine encouraged the creation of a safety outreach campaign to prevent deaths and injuries. She also advocated that Foster City become an "age-friendly" city and progress was made in 2020 with an application submitted to AARP/WHO in November.

When the creation of the countywide electricity aggregation joint powers authority (JPA) was considered, she was a strong advocate. This JPA results in 98 percent of city households and businesses receiving cleaner electricity at lower prices, saving nearly \$1 million annually for city residents. The JPA will also reduce greenhouse gas emissions from electricity usage by 85 percent when compared to 2016.

Importantly, Catherine and her colleagues approved the construction of an improved levee, and city residents responded with an affirmative vote of 80 percent. Construction of this project began this year.

As the pandemic hit, Catherine and her colleagues on the city council hit back. They approved \$10,000 grants to fifty small businesses to assist with rent payments and negotiated an additional year of reduced rent for many elderly, low income, residents at Fosters Landing when those residents would otherwise be forced to move during the pandemic. Catherine and her colleagues also approved a \$10,000 grant to the San Mateo Foster City Education Foundation to assist families with the cost of hot spots for distance learning, and an additional \$10,000 grant to the school district for its free meal program. A \$5,000 grant was made to The Foster City Village to assist senior residents of the community. Catherine is a collaborative councilmember, and she has much to be proud of in these and other accomplishments during this tremendous time of challenge.

Foster City is a wonderful place to live and to raise a family. As Catherine Mahanpour departs her position of leadership, she leaves a legacy of progress. Despite the trials of our times due to the pandemic, the city is fiscally strong and prepared for its future. Catherine shares in the credit for meeting the test of a century. Public service is the shared sacrifice of a family. We wish her and her family many joyful years to come, and many warm memories of the time when Catherine was leading the community during times of optimism and times of trouble, but in any event always toward a better tomorrow.

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, December 8, 2020 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 9

9:45 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Charles W. Cook, Jr., of Mississippi, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the invalidation of the European Union-United States Privacy Shield and the future of transatlantic data flows.

SR-253

Committee on Finance

Subcommittee on Social Security, Pensions, and Family Policy

To hold hearings to examine investigating challenges to American retirement security.

WEBEX

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Department of Veterans Affairs response to COVID-19 across the VA enterprise.

SD-G50

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine advancing tribal self-governance and cultural sovereignty for future generations, focusing on languages to homelands.

SD-628

DECEMBER 10

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Transportation and Safety

To hold hearings to examine the logistics of transporting a COVID-19 vaccine.

SR-253

10 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To hold hearings to examine combatting the opioid crisis, focusing on oversight of the implementation of the STOP Act.

SD-342/WEBEX

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 4632, to amend title 17, United States Code, to establish an alternative dispute resolution program for copyright small claims, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to modify the scope of protection from civil liability for "good Samaritan" blocking and screening of offensive material, and the nominations of Thomas L. Kirsch II, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, Charles Edward Atchley, Jr., and Katherine A. Crytzer, both to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee, Joseph Dawson III, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina, and Zachary N. Somers, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

SD-G50

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine small business in crisis, focusing on the 2020 Paycheck Protection Program and its future.

SR-301

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S7225–S7245

Measures Introduced: Six bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 4966–4971, and S. Res. 794–795. **Page S7240**

Measures Reported:

S. 4133, to modernize the REAL ID Act of 2005, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–303) **Page S7240**

Measures Passed:

Relative to the death of former Senator Roger William Jepsen: Senate agreed to S. Res. 795, relating to the death of the Honorable Roger William Jepsen, former United States Senator for the State of Iowa. **Page S7243**

DHS Opioid Detection Resilience Act: Senate passed H.R. 4761, to ensure U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers, agents, and other personnel have adequate synthetic opioid detection equipment, that the Department of Homeland Security has a process to update synthetic opioid detection capability. **Page S7243**

Securing America's Ports Act: Senate passed H.R. 5273, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a plan to increase to 100 percent the rates of scanning of commercial and passenger vehicles and freight rail entering the United States at land ports of entry along the border using large-scale, nonintrusive inspection systems to enhance border security, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and a committee amendment to the title. **Pages S7243–44**

Orange Book Transparency Act: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1503, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act regarding the list under section 505(j)(7) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S7244**

McConnell (for Alexander) Amendment No. 2693, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S7244**

Schwartz Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Stephen Sidney Schwartz, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

Pages S7228–36

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 48 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 254), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S7223–24**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXII, Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Nathan A. Simington, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission at 12 noon, on Tuesday, December 8, 2020; that the post-cloture time with respect to the nominations of Stephen Sidney Schwartz and Nathan A. Simington expire at 4 p.m., on Tuesday, December 8, 2020, and Senate then vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order listed.

Pages S7235–36

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Nathan A. Simington at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, December 8, 2020. **Page S7245**

Dickerson Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Allen Dickerson, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission. **Page S7228**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Nathan A. Simington, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission. **Page S7228**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S7228**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S7228**

Broussard Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Shana M.

Broussard, of Louisiana, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission. **Page S7228**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Allen Dickerson, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission. **Page S7228**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S7228**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S7228**

Cooksey Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Sean J. Cooksey, of Missouri, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission. **Page S7228**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Shana M. Broussard, of Louisiana, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission. **Page S7228**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S7228**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S7228**

Messages from the House: **Pages S7239–40**

Measures Referred: **Page S7240**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S7240–41**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S7241–42**

Additional Statements: **Page S7239**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S7242–43**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S7243**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—254) **Page S7234**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Roger William Jepsen, former Senator for the State of Iowa, in accordance with S. Res. 795, at 6:40 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, December 8, 2020. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7245.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 10 public bills, H.R. 8883–8892, were introduced. **Page H6905**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H6906**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 8354, to establish the Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative within the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 116–618);

H.R. 3797, to amend the Controlled Substances Act to make marijuana accessible for use by qualified marijuana researchers for medical purposes, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–619, Part 1); and

H.R. 3429, to provide for health equity and access for returning troops and servicemembers, to provide

for ambulatory surgical payment transparency under the Medicare program, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 116–620, Part 1). **Page H6905**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Cuellar to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H6861**

Whole Number of the House: The Chair announced that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from California, Mr. Cook, the whole number of the House is 430. **Page H6861**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Reaffirming the strategic partnership between the United States and Mongolia and observing the 30th anniversary of democracy in Mongolia: H. Res. 1100, amended, reaffirming the strategic partnership between the United States and Mongolia and

observing the 30th anniversary of democracy in Mongolia;
Pages H6862–64

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “Reaffirming the importance of the strategic partnership between the United States and Mongolia.”;
Page H6864

Calling for the global repeal of blasphemy, heresy, and apostasy laws: H. Res. 512, amended, calling for the global repeal of blasphemy, heresy, and apostasy laws, by a 2/3 ye-a-and-nay vote of 386 yeas to 3 nays with one answering “present”, Roll No. 236;
Pages H6864–67, H6883

Condemning the Government of Iran’s state-sponsored persecution of its Baha’i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights: H. Res. 823, amended, condemning the Government of Iran’s state-sponsored persecution of its Baha’i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights;
Pages H6867–69

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “Condemning the Government of Iran’s state-sponsored persecution of its Baha’i minority and its continued violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.”;
Page H6869

Recognizing the importance of sustained United States leadership to accelerating global progress against maternal and child malnutrition and supporting United States Agency for International Development’s commitment to global nutrition through its multi-sectoral nutrition strategy: H. Res. 189, amended, recognizing the importance of sustained United States leadership to accelerating global progress against maternal and child malnutrition and supporting United States Agency for International Development’s commitment to global nutrition through its multi-sectoral nutrition strategy;
Pages H6869–72

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “Supporting sustained United States leadership to accelerating global progress against maternal and child malnutrition and supporting United States Agency for International Development’s commitment to global nutrition through its multi-sectoral nutrition strategy.”;
Pages H6871–72

Hong Kong People’s Freedom and Choice Act of 2020: H.R. 8428, amended, to provide for temporary protected status for residents of Hong Kong;
Pages H6872–77

HBCU Propelling Agency Relationships Towards a New Era of Results for Students Act: S. 461, amended, to strengthen the capacity and com-

petitiveness of historically Black colleges and universities through robust public-sector, private-sector, and community partnerships and engagement, by a 2/3 ye-a-and-nay vote of 388 yeas to 6 nays, Roll No. 237; and
Pages H6877–80, H6883–84

Stop Student Debt Relief Scams Act: S. 1153, to explicitly make unauthorized access to Department of Education information technology systems and the misuse of identification devices issued by the Department of Education a criminal act. **Pages H6880–83**

Senate Referrals: S. 4409 was held at the desk. S. 4684 was held at the desk.

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on pages H6888–89.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two ye-a-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H6883 and H6884.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D967)

H.R. 5901, to establish a program to facilitate the adoption of modern technology by executive agencies. Signed on December 3, 2020. (Public Law 116–194)

H.R. 1773, to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the women in the United States who joined the workforce during World War II, providing the aircraft, vehicles, weaponry, ammunition and other material to win the war, that were referred to as “Rosie the Riveter”, in recognition of their contributions to the United States and the inspiration they have provided to ensuing generations. Signed on December 3, 2020. (Public Law 116–195)

H.R. 1833, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 35 Tulip Avenue in Floral Park, New York, as the “Lieutenant Michael R. Davidson Post Office Building”. Signed on December 3, 2020. (Public Law 116–196)

H.R. 3207, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 114 Mill Street in Hookstown, Pennsylvania, as the “Staff Sergeant Dylan Elchin Post Office Building”. Signed on December 3, 2020. (Public Law 116–197)

H.R. 3317, to permit the Scipio A. Jones Post Office in Little Rock, Arkansas, to accept and display a portrait of Scipio A. Jones. Signed on December 3, 2020. (Public Law 116–198)

H.R. 3329, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5186 Benito Street in Montclair, California, as the “Paul Eaton Post Office Building”. Signed on December 3, 2020. (Public Law 116–199)

H.R. 4734, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 171 South Maple Street in Dana, Indiana, as the “Ernest ‘Ernie’ T. Pyle Post Office”. Signed on December 3, 2020. (Public Law 116–200)

H.R. 4794, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8320 13th Avenue in Brooklyn, New York, as the “Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini Post Office Building”. Signed on December 3, 2020. (Public Law 116–201)

H.R. 4981, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2505 Derita Avenue in Charlotte, North Carolina, as the “Julius L. Chambers Civil Rights Memorial Post Office”. Signed on December 3, 2020. (Public Law 116–202)

H.R. 5037, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3703 North Main Street in Farmville, North Carolina, as the “Walter B. Jones, Jr. Post Office”. Signed on December 3, 2020. (Public Law 116–203)

H.R. 5384, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Crosby Street in Mansfield, Louisiana, as the “Dr. C.O. Simpkins, Sr., Post Office”. Signed on December 3, 2020. (Public Law 116–204)

S. 327, to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for a lifetime National Recreational Pass for any veteran with a service-connected disability. Signed on December 3, 2020. (Public Law 116–205)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2020

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Security, to hold hearings to examine United States Coast Guard capabilities for safeguarding national interests and promoting economic security in the Arctic, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine an essential part of a COVID–19 solution, focusing on early outpatient treatment, 10 a.m., SD–342/WEBEX.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “The Impact on Women Seeking an Abortion but are Denied Because of an Inability to Pay”, 10 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Balkans: Policy Recommendations for the Next Administration”, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing entitled “Identifying Congressional and Administration Priorities for the Next Congress: How we can support our Veterans through and after COVID–19”, 10:15 a.m., Webex.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: to hold hearings to examine United States priorities for engagement at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, 10 a.m., WEBCAST.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of December 8 through December 11,
2020

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Nathan A. Simington, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 12 noon.

At 4 p.m., Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Stephen Sidney Schwartz, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims, and on confirmation of the nomination of Nathan A. Simington, in the order listed.

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 Commerce, Science, and Transportation: December 8, Subcommittee on Security, to hold hearings to examine United States Coast Guard capabilities for safeguarding national interests and promoting economic security in the Arctic, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

December 9, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the invalidation of the European Union–United States Privacy Shield and the future of transatlantic data flows, 10 a.m., SR–253.

December 10, Subcommittee on Transportation and Safety, to hold hearings to examine the logistics of transporting a COVID–19 vaccine, 9:30 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: December 9, Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Charles W. Cook,

Jr., of Mississippi, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority, 9:45 a.m., SD-106.

Committee on Finance: December 9, Subcommittee on Social Security, Pensions, and Family Policy, to hold hearings to examine investigating challenges to American retirement security, 10 a.m., WEBEX.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: December 8, to hold hearings to examine an essential part of a COVID-19 solution, focusing on early outpatient treatment, 10 a.m., SD-342/WEBEX.

December 10, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to hold hearings to examine combatting the opioid crisis, focusing on oversight of the implementation of the STOP Act, 10 a.m., SD-342/WEBEX.

Committee on Indian Affairs: December 9, to hold hearings to examine advancing tribal self-governance and cultural sovereignty for future generations, focusing on languages to homelands, 2:30 p.m., SD-628.

Committee on the Judiciary: December 10, business meeting to consider S. 4632, to amend title 17, United States Code, to establish an alternative dispute resolution program for copyright small claims, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to modify the scope of protection from civil liability for “good Samaritan” blocking and screening of offensive material, and the nominations of Thomas L. Kirsch II, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, Charles Edward Atchley, Jr., and Katherine A. Crytzer, both to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee, Joseph Dawson III, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina, and Zachary N. Somers, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: December 10, to hold hearings to examine small business in crisis, focusing on the 2020 Paycheck Protection Program and its future, 10 a.m., SR-301.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: December 9, to hold hearings to examine the Department of Veterans Affairs response to COVID-19 across the VA enterprise, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture, December 9, Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research, hearing entitled “1890 Land Grant Institutions—130 Years of Building Equity in Agriculture”, 10 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Armed Services, December 9, Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing entitled “Fort Hood 2020: The Findings and Recommendations of the Fort Hood Independent Review Committee”, 1 p.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, December 9, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Diplomacy or Dead End: An Evaluation of Syria Policy”, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn and Webex.

December 9, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, hearing entitled “International Human Rights and the Closing Civic Space”, 2 p.m., Webex.

December 10, Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation, hearing entitled “Taiwan and the United States: Enduring Bonds in the Face of Adversity”, 10 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, December 9, Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, hearing entitled “Pipelines Over People: How FERC Tramples Landowner Rights in Natural Gas Projects”, 10 a.m., Webex.

December 10, Subcommittee on Government Operations, hearing entitled “The Elements of Presidential Transitions”, 10 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, December 9, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, hearing entitled “The Toxic World of Presumptive Service Connection Determinations: Why Should Our Veterans Wait?”, 9 a.m., HVC-210 and Webex.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: December 8, to hold hearings to examine United States priorities for engagement at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, 10 a.m., WEBCAST

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, December 8

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Nathan A. Simington, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 12 noon.

At 4 p.m., Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Stephen Sidney Schwartz, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims, and on confirmation of the nomination of Nathan A. Simington, in the order listed.

(Senate will recess following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Nathan A. Simington until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, December 8

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of measures under suspension of the Rules.

Consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 6395—William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021.

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