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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.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.

Eternal God, the ruler of Heaven, You alone are unutterable. Teach our lawmakers to obey You, to embrace the truth, to treat others fairly, and to avoid speaking harshly.

Lord, give them such respect for one another that they will assume the best motives for the actions of their colleagues. Help our Senators to remember that You are the judge of the universe who sees everything, whether good or bad.

Lord, You can even see the motivations of our hearts. Inspire us all to permit our thoughts, words, and actions to be acceptable to You.

And, Lord, we respect the conclusions of the electoral college and ask You to bless President-Elect Joseph Biden and Vice President-Elect KAMALA HARRIS.

We pray in Your great 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 (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent for 1 minute in morning business, please.

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

U.S. SERVICEMEMBERS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, we are probably all guilty of not re-

membering the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform, but particularly during this time of year, it is especially difficult for them to be away from friends and family.

Right now, there are almost 1,500 Iowans deployed overseas with the Iowa National Guard, just as one example of a group we should be thinking about. And I think about this group because that 1,500 includes 1 member of my own staff.

We rely on our brave men and women in uniform to protect our way of life, our democracy, and the liberties we cherish. The sacrifices they make are not taken for granted and won't be forgotten by future generations. All of our Nation's servicemembers and their families will be in my prayers and, I hope, the prayers of all of my colleagues during this holiday season.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, over the last 4 years, our country has benefited from a Presidential term filled with major accomplishments. President Donald Trump has repeatedly surprised the skeptics, confounded his critics, and delivered significant policy victories that have strengthened our country.

Case in point, back in May, when the President set the goal of finding a pandemic-ending vaccine by the end of this year, his timeline was literally dismissed by people who assumed they knew better.

Here is one quote: "Trump promises coronavirus vaccine by the end of year," scoffed one headline, "but his own experts temper expectations."

"Fact check" complained another headline, "Coronavirus vaccine could

come this year, Trump says. Experts say he needs a 'miracle' to be right."

Well, with the genius of science, support from Congress, and the bold leadership of the Trump administration, that medical miracle arrived right on schedule. Americans on the frontlines are receiving vaccinations as we speak.

This episode offers a kind of microcosm of the last 4 years. On so many subjects—from economic prosperity to foreign policy, to protecting American families—the skeptics doubted him. The critics derided him. But President Trump has delivered.

When President Trump ran for office, he promised to help open a new chapter for working families. After 8 years of failed policies that concentrated wealth and optimism among the lucky few, prosperity was going to flow to all kinds of workers in all kinds of communities, he said. And that is exactly what happened.

Before this pandemic spread from China and the world had to slam on the brakes, the American people had the best job market in living memory. With help from the policies of President Trump and Republicans in Congress, American workers dynamited the stagnation that experts had said was "the new normal." Unemployment hit a 50-year low. Capital markets hit record highs.

And this time, all kinds of Americans got to share in the gains. We saw earnings grow faster for workers than for managers, faster for the bottom 25 than for the top 25. This success was fueled in part by the policy leadership of President Trump.

This administration pursued bold regulatory changes. Once-in-a-generation tax reform had eluded prior leaders. This President signed it into law in his first year.

And together we repealed the worst part of ObamaCare. The unfair individual mandate was zeroed out.

President Trump also took historic steps to strengthen the future of our

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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trade with the world. He secured the historic United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement and the bilateral tax treaties with partners in Europe and in Asia.

A nation this productive needs plenty of energy to keep it going. Fortunately, President Trump and his administration ended the ideological war on fossil fuels and hit the accelerator on “all of the above” American energy dominance. In the last 4 years, we surpassed Saudi Arabia in oil production. We saw energy exports exceed energy imports for the first year in almost 70 years. Meanwhile, we saw CO₂ emissions fall, along with other harmful pollutants. That energy independence has dramatically strengthened our hand with respect to the rest of the world, particularly the Middle East.

So speaking of the Middle East, President Trump wasted little time pulling back from the prior administration’s disastrous “Iran deal.” His team eliminated daylight between us and Israel and repaired our relationships with Arab partners. And he aligned these relationships around our common shared interests—countering threats like radical Islamic terrorists and Iranian aggression.

Under President Trump’s command, our forces took terrorist leaders like al-Baghdadi and Soleimani off the battlefield. The physical caliphate that ISIS established on the previous President’s watch was destroyed.

All of this paved the way for the Abraham accords, the historic normalization of relationships between Israel and the UAE, Bahrain, Sudan, and, most recently, Morocco. And the potential is there for more on the horizon.

Now, the Middle East isn’t the only place where the Trump administration has shored up our footing on the world stage. Our 45th Commander in Chief sought out to rebuild and modernize our military and to move our foreign policy from a chapter of weakness and apology into a renewed posture of strength.

Four years later, we have a new national defense strategy to compete with and deter adversaries like Russia and China. We have rebuilt the military and invested in new technologies to ensure America keeps our edge in everything from cyber to space, to advanced weapons system.

The President’s leadership does not stop with those who are currently serving. He also signed into law the historic VA MISSION Act to ensure our dedication to the men and women in uniform does not end when their tours conclude.

So, clearly, the list of American accomplishments since 2016 is nearly endless. There are the many miles of new protections on our southern border. At one point, apprehensions at the border hit their lowest level since the 1970s.

Essential causes, like religious liberty and the most vulnerable, the unborn, have had a champion in this administration instead of an adversary.

There have been historic new steps to conserve our national treasures, like the Great American Outdoors Act.

And perhaps most important of all, President Trump nominated—and this Senate confirmed—three outstanding Supreme Court Justices, along with more than 220 more article III Federal judges. These are brilliant, young, constitutionalist men and women in lifetime appointments who will renew the judiciary for a new generation—all because President Trump knows we need judges who respect the essential but limited job description the Framers wrote for our third branch of government.

So as you can see, it would take far more than one speech to catalogue all the major wins the Trump administration has helped deliver for the American people. The outsider who swore he would shake up Washington and lead our country to new accomplishments both at home and abroad proceeded to do exactly that.

President Trump and Vice President MIKE PENCE deserve our thanks and our gratitude for their tireless work and their essential roles in all of these victories and in many more.

2020 ELECTIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, 6 weeks ago, Americans voted in this year’s general election. The legal and constitutional processes have continued to play out since then.

Yesterday, electors met in all 50 States. So, as of this morning, our country has officially a President-elect and a Vice President-elect.

Many millions of us had hoped the Presidential election would yield a different result. But our system of government has processes to determine who will be sworn in on January 20.

The electoral college has spoken.

So, today, I want to congratulate President-Elect Joe Biden. The President-elect is no stranger to the Senate. He has devoted himself to public service for many years.

I also want to congratulate the Vice President-elect, our colleague from California, Senator HARRIS. Beyond our differences, all Americans can take pride that our nation has a female Vice President-elect for the very first time.

I look toward to finishing out the next 36 days strong with President Trump. Our Nation needs us to add another bipartisan chapter to this record of achievement.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam 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 CALENDER

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Thomas L. Kirsch II, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

PRESIDENT-ELECT BIDEN

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, if you follow the U.S. Senate, which, of course, many of us do, there was a noteworthy moment this morning. It was actually a prayer by our Chaplain, Barry Black. In that prayer, he acknowledged and called for the blessings of God on the President-Elect Joe Biden and Vice President-Elect KAMALA HARRIS.

The reason that was noteworthy is that has been a contested issue among politicians on Capitol Hill for weeks as to whether or not Joe Biden could be described as President-elect. Many have stepped forward and said yes, but many resisted. The acknowledgement by the Chaplain caught me a little by surprise this morning. And I came to the floor to hear the Republican leader, Senator MCCONNELL, go through an accounting of the Trump Presidency and all of his achievements and then concluded by acknowledging as well that we have a President-elect in Joe Biden. I believe that that reflected the reality of the November 3 election and the finality of the electoral college decisions being made across the Nation in so many States.

I thank those who have stepped forward to acknowledge the reality of a new President and hope that they will join me in an effort to do our best to make certain that his tenure is a success, not just for him personally and the Vice President but for our Nation. We deserve nothing less.

It is a long story, these last few weeks since November 3 and what has happened across America. I don’t think anyone could have predicted that we would see the divisive reaction that we have seen, nor could anyone have predicted what happened yesterday. Some States had to take extraordinary measures to protect electoral college electors—what used to be a routine, somewhat tedious and boring mission. It resulted in the closing of legislative

buildings in Michigan to the public and, according to press reports, credible threats of violence. In Arizona, electors met in an undisclosed location to safely cast their votes. These measures followed a last-ditch effort by 17 Republican attorneys general and more than half of the House Republican caucus joining in a lawsuit and accompanying an amicus brief before the Supreme Court, which incredibly argued that the Court should nullify the votes of more than 20 million Americans. These ludicrous arguments couldn't hide the true justification for joining this effort to undermine our democracy. The people who were protesting simply don't like the results of the 2020 election, and they don't want to turn their backs on President Trump.

The conservative-leaning Supreme Court summarily dismissed this effort outright, rejecting the lawsuit in an order on Friday evening, wasting no time in doing it. Despite repeated and forceful judicial rejections of their baseless allegations of fraud at attempts to nullify the votes of Americans, only 27 Congressional Republicans would publicly acknowledge the obvious President-elect of the United States, Joe Biden, as of last week.

Now that the electoral college has spoken, more Congressional Republicans are finally stepping up. The fact that it took 6 weeks for my colleagues to recognize reality and stop undermining our Democratic process is sad and disappointing. When we were sworn in as Members of Congress, we took a simple oath: support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. It is not an oath to one person, nor one President; it is not conditional if one receives enough angry phone calls; it is not dependent on whether the responsibilities are difficult; and it is certainly not optional if one has to face a more challenging electorate. And yet, with the exception of only a few in this Senate Chamber, the silence in upholding this oath in the face of President Trump's blatant attempts to undermine our democracy has been overwhelming.

Just compare it to the courage shown by State and local election officials across the United States, including many Republicans, who always hasten to add that they had voted for President Trump; they were disappointed in the election of Joe Biden; but the election in their State, by their measure, was honest and fair. They don't enjoy the perks or protections we have here in Congress, but they stepped up and spoke up, and I respect them for it—proud Americans of both parties under personal threat for their integrity and defending an American election that the President of the United States wants overturned.

Senator MURPHY, the junior Senator from Connecticut, came to the floor on Friday and spoke eloquently about this threat to American democracy that has been playing out in plain sight—

the blatant and shameful attempt to use the power of the Presidency to overturn a free and fair election, an election which is the foundation of our democracy. Senator MURPHY reminded us about the fragility of our democracy and how it should never ever be taken for granted. He warned about collaborating in silence as these efforts are made to destroy it. "How Democracies Die." The poignant remarks and the outrageous actions of recent weeks reminded me of a dinner I hosted with the authors of a powerful book, "How Democracies Die." The authors, Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt, detail examples in which democracies are weakened, collapsed, and even destroyed. I recommend it as urgent reading to my colleagues in the Senate at this moment in our history. They highlighted the critical role of established political leaders in standing up, or failing to stand up, in key moments when events or persons threaten their democracies.

Venezuela, in the early 1990s—the key establishment party leader opportunistically sided with Hugo Chavez after a coup attempt, devastatingly, giving Chavez critical legitimacy he then used to gain power and bring his country to its current state of decline. I believe we have such a moment here that demands leaders of both parties to carry out their oaths of office and defend our treasured democracy. Quite simply, silence is unacceptable.

I am glad for what Senator MCCONNELL said this morning on the floor of the Senate. Perhaps Chaplain Black inspired him and will inspire others to step up and speak the truth.

CORONAVIRUS

Madam President, on a separate issue, I have given a big part of my life to this institution, the Senate, and I respect what we have been able to do on many occasions. Through honest give-and-take and compromise, we have been able to bring legislation to this floor to debate it, to consider amendments, to pass the legislation, and, ultimately, not only make a law but change the lives of Americans. We are at that moment where we need it again. And 10 of us—5 Democrats, 5 Republicans, as well as House Members—decided 3 weeks ago that enough was enough; we needed to show some leadership and try to work out a compromise between us for another COVID relief package. You see, it has been 9 months since we passed what was known as the CARES Act on the floor of the Senate, 96 to 0—overwhelming, unanimous, bipartisan decision—to spend about \$3 trillion not only to fight the pandemic but to restore our economy.

Thank goodness we did. It really gave us an opportunity to do something for America when it desperately needed it. We thought that the threat of the pandemic would soon ebb away, but it did not. It was not gone in 6 months, and it isn't gone today. In fact, in some places in America, it is worse now than

ever. My State of Illinois, despite the heroic efforts of my Governor and many others, is suffering with infections, hospitalizations, and, sadly, too many deaths. That is the reality of where we are today.

So this group of 10—5 Democrats, 5 Republicans—has been meeting for 3 weeks. We even met on Thanksgiving Day. We did a Zoom call and had some conversation about a phase of this that might be important for us to consider. I tell you that because we did produce a work product—one that I think is worthy of consideration immediately on the floor of the Senate. It was an effort to reach a spending target of \$908 billion to provide immediate assistance across the board in the United States, to extend unemployment benefits where they are desperately needed; to give help to businesses—some \$300 billion in new lending authority; to provide additional funds for SNAP, the food stamp program, which many desperate families turn to in order to feed their children; help to our farmers; help to the renters who would be facing eviction under their leases if we were to do nothing; help to hospitals and nursing homes and clinics, for we all know they are on the frontline of this battle; money for the testing of those who suspect they are infected with COVID-19; and more resources for the logistics of vaccinations.

The CDFI Program is an effort to extend lending authority, particularly in desperate communities that are battling both poverty as well as this pandemic. There is \$5 billion for mental health, and we certainly know we need it, for the psychological pressure that America is facing is obvious in so many ways. There is over \$80 billion in education and \$10 billion in childcare. We can't overlook the fact that many can't return to work because there is no childcare that they trust with their kids. There is help, as well, for expanding broadband. As our kids have to turn to remote learning in many places in America, broadband has to become a fact of life across this Nation. There is \$45 billion in the whole transportation system network that has been devastated by this economic downturn. There is \$10 billion for those in our Postal Service. They are working harder than ever, and we want to make sure that the men and women of the Postal Service, who do such a remarkable job, know that we have their backs. There are also extensions of spending authority for the CARES Act.

These are just a few of the things that we considered over the 3-week period, and we came up with a bill that spent \$748 billion. There were two items that were not included in the base consensus bill because we couldn't reach a consensus on them.

State and local government assistance I support completely. I know what my cities and my counties and what my State have gone through. They need help. We couldn't agree on including that in the package at this moment. I hope this changes even today.

Finally, on the issue of liability and immunity from liability, this has been one that has been raised by Senator MCCONNELL for months. He has basically said that nothing will move until he gets a provision, which I find objectionable, that was originally offered by Senator CORNYN.

Here is what it comes down to: Should people be able to go to court if they believe that they have been harmed or that members of their family have died as a result of the wrongdoing of people during this COVID-19 pandemic? Some argue that businesses should not have that possibility hanging over their heads, and that is what Senator CORNYN used as a basis for his provision, which makes it almost impossible for anyone to recover for any losses during COVID-19. Others believe that we need to show an even-handed approach to this on both sides: If we are going to be fair to businesses that are legitimately, in good faith, trying to protect their employees and customers, we should also leave the possibility open that those who are responsible for their actions need to be held accountable in court. I think it is a simple and basic provision that there be equity on both sides, not just for plaintiffs but also for defendants.

We tried mightily during the last several weeks, and I want to salute my colleagues who engaged directly in that effort: ANGUS KING, of Maine; TIM KAINE, of Virginia; CHRIS COONS, of Delaware; DICK BLUMENTHAL, of Connecticut; MAGGIE HASSAN, of New Hampshire. We offered a variety of options that we thought were reasonable and served the purpose of justice, but we couldn't reach an agreement.

The others on the Democratic side who were part of this overall effort deserve mention in the RECORD. I don't want to miss anyone, but I want to include, certainly, JOE MANCHIN, of West Virginia; MARK WARNER, of Virginia; and JEANNE SHAHEEN, of New Hampshire. To all of them, I thank them for bringing forth this measure.

Now it is going to be in the hands of leadership. I hope we can call it up this week. We should not go home without it.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

2020 ELECTIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, as the Republican leader rightly acknowledged a few moments ago, Joe Biden will be the next President of the United States, and our colleague KAMALA HARRIS will be the next Vice President of the United States. Leader MCCONNELL's Republican Senators ought to follow suit. They ought to acknowledge that Joe Biden will be the next President and that KAMALA HARRIS will be the next Vice President.

For the sake of the country, President Trump should take his cue from Leader MCCONNELL that it is time to end his term with a modicum of grace

and dignity—qualities that his predecessors took great pains to display during our grand tradition of a peaceful transfer of power.

Enough is enough. Our Republican colleagues, for the sake of our democracy and for the sake of the peaceful transition of power, should stop the shenanigans, stop the misrepresentations, and acknowledge that Joe Biden will be our next President. Enough is enough. Republican Senators and Republicans throughout the country should follow Leader MCCONNELL's lead and acknowledge now that Joe Biden will be the next President of the United States.

CORONAVIRUS

Madam President, now on COVID-19, in a year full of grim milestones, yesterday delivered the grimmest yet—that more than 300,000 Americans have now died from COVID-19. This is greater than the number of American soldiers who died during the entirety of World War II—a population the size of St. Louis or Pittsburgh wiped off the map—300,000 American souls.

As trucks bearing the first shipments of vaccines fan out across the Nation—the first best hope for defeating the pandemic in the new year—we cannot lose sight of what we have lost this year. That is what the end of 2020 has brought—hope tinged by grief. It was an amazing sight yesterday to see the first American being inoculated against the disease—a nurse at the Long Island Jewish Medical Center in Queens, my home State of New York—but for so many, the vaccine has not come soon enough.

Let it be our tribute to those Americans we lost to do everything in our power to limit the losses in moving forward—to produce and distribute as many vaccines as are necessary and encourage every American—every American—to take the vaccine when it is available to him. There are 3 million doses of the vaccine that are already out the door, and another vaccine is already in the emergency authorization process. Still another vaccine candidate may be ready early next year.

As I said yesterday, the discovery of the coronavirus vaccine in the span of a calendar year is a crowning scientific achievement of the 21st century. Our job now is to ensure that the good work of America's scientists, biochemists, and medical research is brought to bear and that, given the tools, we finally stamp out COVID-19 from our country and begin the road to recovery. We need to fully fund not only the production of the vaccine but its distribution as well. The States need that money.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, it was a hopeful day yesterday as the first COVID vaccines in the United States were distributed to healthcare workers on the frontlines of the COVID battle, and later this week, the FDA will hold a meeting on an emergency use authorization for Moderna's COVID vaccine, meaning that we could have a second coronavirus vaccine authorized before Christmas.

If all goes well, we expect to have 100 million Americans vaccinated by March. That is a pretty amazing statistic when you consider that just a year ago, we didn't even know about the virus, and it is a tribute to the innovative power of the private sector and the efforts of Congress and the Trump administration to expedite vaccine development. It has been a long, hard year, but the light at the end of the tunnel is coming.

But, while yesterday was an encouraging day, we have more work to do on the COVID front.

First, we all need to keep following the CDC's recommendations. The roll-out of Pfizer's vaccine is wonderful news, but cases in the United States are still surging. Until we can get a lot more people vaccinated, we need to do everything we can to slow the spread of the virus and avoid overwhelming our hospitals.

Second, we need to pass another COVID bill here in Congress to provide additional funding for vaccines and deliver other urgently needed relief to our fellow Americans. Republicans, of course, have been trying to pass additional COVID legislation literally for months, and I am encouraged that, in the past few weeks, a number of Democrats have stepped forward to work with the Republicans to develop bipartisan legislation. Just yesterday, a bipartisan group of Senators released legislation along the lines of what the majority leader has advocated—targeted relief that focuses on our most critical needs in the areas where Republicans and Democrats agree. This includes important COVID priorities like vaccine funding, money for schools, and help for the hardest hit small businesses.

The Republicans and Democrats' ideal COVID bills might look very different, but there are a number of things that all of us agree need to be addressed, and we should—in fact, we must—pass legislation to take care of those priorities. I am thinking about vaccine distribution especially. We have been blessed with not one but two viable vaccines, with more on the horizon. We can't afford to undermine this success by failing to provide the resources that are necessary for widespread distribution.

The ball is in the Senate Democratic leader and Speaker PELOSI's court. We have bipartisan support for targeted relief to address our most critical priorities. In fact, the Democratic leader in the House noted on Sunday:

I think we need to get an agreement, and we need to get this bill passed. . . . Nobody

ever gets everything they want. And . . . it's critically important that we deal with these very, very important objectives even if we don't get on either side everything we want.

That was from the Democratic leader in the House of Representatives.

Meanwhile, the Democratic whip on the Senate side was part of the bipartisan group who suggested dropping the most controversial aspects and focusing on those things on which we agree.

So the answer really lies with Speaker PELOSI and the Democratic leader here in the Senate. Are they going to heed the bipartisan calls to deliver critical coronavirus funding, or are they going to continue to block relief for Americans?

Around our country, Americans are struggling under the worst wave of the virus to date. They need more help. Above all, they need the vaccinations that will help bring this pandemic to an end. We can pass additional coronavirus relief legislation this week. To quote the majority leader, let's "get it done."

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BRAUN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM BARR

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, yesterday evening, President Trump shared the news that Attorney General Bill Barr will be leaving the administration in the coming days, and I want to take a moment to publicly thank the Attorney General for his service to our country.

Under two different Presidents and at two very different times in our country's history, Bill Barr gladly answered the call to service. His steadfast leadership has enabled the Department of Justice to continue its mission at a pivotal moment in our Nation's history.

I particularly appreciate Attorney General Barr's attempt to get to the bottom of some of the abuse of power by the FBI and the Department of Justice during the latter part of the Obama administration and early in the Trump administration.

During his time as Attorney General, Bill Barr has consistently fought to improve the safety of our communities across the country by attacking violent crime and aggressively countering transnational criminal organizations. He has been a champion of Project Safe Neighborhoods, which has strengthened community partnerships and helped to reduce crime rates across our country.

He has taken aim at the threats that exist beyond our borders, from drug cartels in Mexico to economic exploitation and outright theft by China.

Through it all, he has been as dogged in preventing injustice as in pursuing wrongdoing.

So I want to thank the Attorney General once again for not only answering the call to serve a second time but also for once again serving with distinction and integrity.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. President, on another matter, this week is set to be the final week for the 116th Congress, and the American people are counting on us to do our job. We have until this Friday to fund the government, and I hope we can pass legislation that provides more certainty than the stopgap bills that have become the norm in recent years.

It is simply impossible for government Agencies and Departments like the Defense Department to plan with short-term continuing resolutions. They need a longer term so they can plan and actually spend taxpayer dollars far more efficiently.

This is also a final opportunity to reach an agreement on another coronavirus bill, something that has been on our to-do list since this summer.

There is no reason why we shouldn't be able to send a stack of bipartisan bills to the President's desk for his signature. These may seem like small ball compared to some of the big issues like keeping the lights on for the government or another COVID-19 relief bill, but they are very important bipartisan pieces of legislation.

JENNA QUINN LAW

Mr. President, one of those bills is the Jenna Quinn Law, which I have spoken on here on the Senate floor many times. The goal of this legislation is straightforward—to stop child sexual abuse. It will help us do that by building on the success of what is now known as Jenna's Law in Texas and other States, which requires training for teachers, caregivers, and other adults who work with children, who will receive specialized training on how to detect and report and thus prevent child sexual abuse.

The signs of child sexual abuse are unique from other forms of child abuse and correctly identifying these signs is integral to bringing children out of sexually abusive situations. You might ask, If there is a Texas State law providing for this, why do we need a Federal law? Well, not every State has done what Texas has done, but also they need the funding to help pay for this specialized training. That is what the Jenna Quinn Law that is pending in Congress will do, and it will encourage other States without similar laws to implement innovative programs to address child sexual abuse. There should be few things more unifying than the war against child sexual abuse, which is why this bill passed the Senate unanimously earlier this year.

But days have turned into weeks and weeks have turned into months, and the House still hasn't passed the Jenna Quinn Law. It is not because House Members oppose the bill. If it came up on the floor today, nearly every Member of the House of Representatives would vote for it.

This bill hasn't been able to pass the House because one chairman—a Democratic chairman—won't even give the House a chance to vote on it. For months, Education and Labor Committee Chairman BOBBY SCOTT has refused to move the Jenna Quinn Law. Despite repeated requests from countless child advocacy groups and a bipartisan group of Senators and Congressmen, it continues in purgatory on the committee calendar.

Senators HASSAN, SMITH, and I sent a letter to Congressman SCOTT urging him to take action and to allow this lifesaving legislation to pass the House this year. He responded to our letter, saying he will continue to hold this legislation because he wants to add it to other more complicated legislative measures next year.

So when it comes to detecting and preventing child sexual abuse, Chairman SCOTT thinks we can wait until next year.

We can't wait until next year.

In short, he admitted that this legislation is so important and so valuable that he can't let it pass on its own. It has to drag other, more controversial, more partisan pieces of legislation along with it. And just when you think things can't get any worse, they do.

As I said, this legislation will provide funding to the States and will encourage States, like Congressman SCOTT's home State of Virginia, to implement it. You would think that Congressman SCOTT would care. If he didn't care for the bill that would benefit the rest of the country, you would think he would care about how it would benefit his constituents in his home district of Virginia. Virginia doesn't currently require this training for teachers, caregivers, and other adults who work with children, and this legislation would fix that.

Making this matter even more urgent is the pandemic. Experts believe that the unique conditions created by COVID-19 have caused instances of child sexual abuse to go up, while the number of reports has gone down. Families are experiencing a range of new stressors, including everything from job losses to financial instability, to health anxiety, all while isolating at home with their children. And the children who aren't going to school each day are out of sight from the teachers, busdrivers, and other adults they would otherwise come in contact with who are most likely to identify and report child sexual abuse. Adults who work with children are the No. 1 reporters of that abuse.

So there could not be a more urgent need for this legislation. This is not a partisan pet project. It is legislation that will save the lives of children across the country. Victims in my home State of Texas and Congressman SCOTT's home State of Virginia would experience the lifesaving benefits of the Jenna Quinn Law.

A couple weeks ago, the Dallas Morning News published an editorial titled,

"If Congress can't even pass a law to help save kids from sex abuse, what can it get right?"

Well, that is a fair question and a tough but necessary question. When you see what Chairman SCOTT is doing, it is easy to see why Congress's approval rating is so abysmal. If a high-ranking leader of a House committee will block commonsense legislation that is directed at stopping child sexual abuse, how can the American people have faith in Congress's ability to accomplish anything?

Now is not the time to play politics or use child sexual abuse victims as leverage. This bill is one step away from going to the President's desk, and Congressman SCOTT is the only one standing in the way.

It is time to quit playing games and allow the Jenna Quinn Law to pass.

TRIBUTE TO CORY GARDNER

Mr. President, now on one final matter, we are less than 1 month away from the biannual changing of the guard in Congress before we gavel out for the year. I want to say just a few comments about our friend from Colorado who will soon be leaving the Senate, Senator CORY GARDNER.

Senator GARDNER has proudly represented the people of Colorado for 15 years, first in the State House, then in the House of Representatives, and now in the U.S. Senate.

Once you get to know CORY, it is easy to see how this "boy from Yuma" became such a trusted voice for his home State.

For starters, he is a prime example of what Ronald Reagan called a "happy warrior." At the end of his speech in 1985, President Reagan spoke about the pursuit of high ideals like liberty, freedom, and fairness, and the reasons our country has to be hopeful and optimistic. He said: "So, let us go forth with good cheer and stout hearts—happy warriors out to seize back a country and a world to freedom."

Those qualities of "good cheer and stout hearts" could not be a more appropriate description of our friend from Colorado. Senator GARDNER has maintained a very keen understanding of the challenges we have faced as a nation, and he channels his passion and his optimism in finding solutions to those challenges.

There is no question that he does get results. In the 6 years he has been in the Senate, CORY has accomplished more than some Senators have accomplished in double or maybe even triple that time. He has been a strong voice on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and has helped lead changes to counter some of the most pressing threats facing our country.

He helped pass the first-ever sanctions on North Korea to denuclearize one of the most untethered states and nations in the world. He fought to hold China accountable for their gross human rights violations, specifically those targeting the Uighur people. He has led efforts to strengthen the rela-

tionship between the United States and Taiwan.

But I think the accomplishments he is most proud of are those that hit much closer to home. Cory introduced legislation to designate 9-8-8 as a national suicide prevention and mental health hotline. It is impossible to know how many lives have been and will be saved by simply adopting this three-digit phone number.

This last year, he led in the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act, the largest conservation bill in a generation.

A big factor in CORY's success has been his relationships with his fellow Senators—not those backroom transactional relationships you think of, perhaps, when you think about politics, but I mean real friendships with folks throughout the Capitol Complex. If there were a Mr. or Ms. Congeniality contest in Congress, CORY would win by a landslide.

It is common to see him talking not only with Senators from both parties but staffers in other offices. He was once a staffer in Senator Wayne Allard's office. So he can identify with them, as well as the Capitol Police, and the countless men and women who keep Congress running, from cafeteria workers to cleaning staff.

He greets every person with the same genuine smile and is glad to spend a few minutes chatting, asking about your family, holiday plans, or how someone's day is going. That sincerity—his willingness to listen and deal with people on such a human and personal level—is something we need more of, not less of, here in Washington, especially these days.

So the Senate will miss our happy warrior and the trademark positivity he brings to even the most contentious debates. And while we are sad to see him go, I know this isn't the last we will hear of or see of CORY GARDNER. The only thing more enduring than his energy is his drive to help people from all places and in all walks of life.

So, while our colleagues are sad to bid farewell to our friend CORY, we know that Jaime, Alyson, Caitlyn, and Thatcher are all eager to have him back home in Yuma and see more of him and spend more time together.

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. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

IMMIGRATION

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, millions and millions of people will breathe a bit easier on January 20. That relief will be especially sweet for those who suffered under Donald Trump's cold-hearted approach to immigration and asylum.

The President has built a wall to immigrants, but it is not made of fencing or brick and mortar. The President has rebuilt the infamous paper wall, like that of the 1930s, which kept too many Jews out of the United States, trapping them within the murderous regime of Nazi Germany.

The paper wall was built on anti-migrant regulations, including one targeting anybody who might become a so-called public charge. It was reinforced by racism, anti-Semitism, and nativism. It created bureaucratic roadblocks that had no purpose other than to frustrate applicants, block visas and refugees, and slow immigration to a trickle. That is awfully familiar to those who watched Donald Trump succeed horribly at repeating some of America's worst immigration mistakes.

In the last 4 years, I have often thought about my late mom and dad who were refugees to America. My parents were German Jews who fled the Nazis.

Not all of our family got out. My great-uncle, Max, was one of the last to be gassed at Auschwitz.

When my father arrived here at 13, he barely spoke any English. He studied hard. When the war came, my dad, who wasn't exactly built like Captain America, wanted more than anything to wear the uniform of the U.S. Army. My dad essentially talked his way into the service. He joined the Army's psychological warfare division because, with his fluent German, my dad wrote propaganda pamphlets that our planes dropped on the enemy soldiers that were retreating further and further back toward Berlin.

I have seen those pamphlets, and—with a little son pride—they were smoking. They just told the Nazis they didn't have a chance. In contrast, the materials their military dropped on our soldiers was written in mangled English—comical stuff. My dad has really been singled out. He is in the Holocaust Museum for his contributions for helping our Army beat the Nazis, and after the war, he became a journalist and an author.

My mom came in 1939, a few years after my dad. During the war, she served in the Women's Army Corps. She was in England, France, and Germany, and on the wall at home is a picture of my mom in her WAC uniform. You can look at that picture, and you can see pride in serving our country from every single pore.

After the war, my mom had a long career as a research librarian, and she worked even harder raising her oldest son, who mostly wanted to play NBA basketball instead of hitting the books.

Both my parents felt so blessed that they could get out of Germany. They made it over the paper wall. They had a chance to become Americans.

Most Jewish families in the United States have stories just like these. Some were able to get out; others were left behind, and some were lost.

Many remember the *MS St. Louis*, a ship with nearly 1,000 refugees—mostly Jewish—fleeing Germany in 1930. Originally, they sailed for Cuba, but they were turned away when they reached Havana. Then they tried to come to America. They got so close. They could see the lights shining in Miami, but again they were turned away and sailed back to Europe. Hundreds of them died in death camps. Many more lives like those aboard the *St. Louis* could and should have been saved, but the paper wall—that paper wall—kept too many people out.

In 2020, caring people looked back and recognized that paper wall and our failure to save more people from execution at the hands of the Nazis. It was a staggering humanitarian disaster, a real stain on American history.

Donald Trump and his advisers, on the other hand, must look back and see the paper wall as a big success, a play-book for their administration. Under Donald Trump, the policy of the United States on immigration, asylum, and refugees—sum it up in one word: cruelty. Trump's worst legacy on asylum and refugee policy, without a doubt, is the kidnapping and abuse of youngsters—children—locking them in cages, losing track of them, and losing track of their parents. It is the forced sterilization of women in the custody of the U.S. Government. It is violating U.S. law and international treaties to turn asylum seekers into criminals.

I went to the border to see for myself what Trump's family separation policies looked like in practice. When you see it, you never forget.

I met a migrant woman who was almost 9 months pregnant and suffering complications. A pediatrician from Oregon who came with me was concerned that this woman's life was in danger, as well as her unborn child. She had been stopped at the border, along with her husband and their 3-year-old son, even though she had a legal right—a legal right—to make an asylum claim.

Our pediatrician, who worried that the woman was going to go into labor right there, had to make a judgment call about what we ought to do. So, fortunately, we got her case before the right border authorities. She was able to make her asylum claim, get medical care, and keep her family together.

At the time, I saw a little boy who had been detained for several nights in a cold, cramped cell—they call them iceboxes—and then sent back to Mexico. This youngster was so traumatized at the border that he became entirely nonverbal and afraid of adults. His father held my hand and cried, and he told us how helpless he felt as a parent. I will never forget that experience.

Children and parents on the southern border are experiencing the worst of Donald Trump's hostility, but it doesn't end there. His administration has relentlessly attacked and squeezed the traditional systems of immigration and humanitarian assistance and refugee resettlement as well. A lot has

gone into this paper wall. Anti-immigration policies have bookended the Trump 4 years. One of their first new policies out of the gate was the Muslim ban, which was a nightmare for many immigrants and immigrant families.

Now, in Donald Trump's final days, his administration has made the citizenship exam twice as hard and twice as long. Reportedly, questions were rewritten with Trump-friendly political bias and tricky language designed to trip people up. There wasn't any discussion about any exams here in Congress. When you read the old version of the test that existed before the Trump meddling, it was pretty darn challenging. There is no good-faith explanation for the changes. It was only about making it harder—making it harder to become an American.

Through his years in office, Donald Trump steadily lowered the cap on refugees allowed in the country. For 2021, he set it at the lowest number ever.

Then there is the DACA Program, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival. We talked here in the Senate about the Dreamers, and when the program was created, there was a promise made that it would be OK for the Dreamers to come out of the shadows. You could apply without fear and have your application renewed in 2 years. I think the government has a moral obligation to keep the promise. Not on Donald Trump's watch—if not for court orders, DACA would be dismantled by now.

There are more than 11,000 hard-working young people in my home State that are DACA recipients. I have talked with a lot of them. They come to my townhall meetings. We meet on campus and meet in coffee shops.

Not long after the pandemic hit, one young Oregon DACA recipient started working with COVID patients. She just wanted to help during the pandemic—coordinating tests, working on followup, contact tracing. What a wonderful person doing essential work during the pandemic, but her temporary DACA status ran out just when the Trump administration blocked renewals. Fortunately, my staff and I were able to help her reapply and retain her status so she could keep working in the only place she ever called home.

The harsh reality is there are thousands and thousands of young Dreamers who have been faced with the same panic of losing their status, being ripped from their homes and deported. The fact is, Donald Trump has used these Dreamers like pawns.

Recently, he dusted off the public charge rule, using the past to discriminate against Jewish refugees. I consider it a wealth test for immigrants—a cruel system that pushes vulnerable immigrant families into destitution.

In Oregon, right now, it means that there are families who are just afraid to seek assistance they are entitled to receive, afraid to seek emergency medical assistance during a pandemic, and afraid to seek disaster relief after huge wildfires. These families—we talk to

them—they desperately need help. They are members of Oregon's collective community, but they can't get it because they are fearful they will be labeled a "public charge."

Donald Trump revoked protected immigration status from hundreds of thousands of U.S. residents originally from countries ravaged by war, famines, and epidemics. Many of those people who have lived here for decades had planted deep roots. Nothing is accomplished by revoking their status and deporting them, other than shattering their lives and weakening their communities.

Then, the Trump administration adopted a "no blanks" policy so they could reject applications for visa and asylum if there were just simple paperwork errors. For example, let's say an only child filling out a visa application leaves a blank where it asks for details on siblings—they could be rejected. Even simple errors that mean nothing—writing in a dash instead of an "N/A" for an inapplicable question—leads to rejection. The policy, here again, has resulted in huge cuts to immigration and asylum.

During the pandemic, the Trump administration denied COVID relief to tax-paying, law-abiding American immigrants who secure America's food supply or save lives as frontline healthcare workers.

Next, there is a sabotage of the system of printing documents for immigrants, including green cards that allow residents to work and go to school. This affected tens of thousands, again, who did nothing wrong. Some of them were newly approved applicants, many others were longtime U.S. residents replacing green cards that were expired or lost. If an immigrant's green card expires, and they don't have the replacement, they are out of luck and technically in a kind of legal never-never land. It is all because Donald Trump wanted to break the system just to cause harm.

Now let's talk about those who work alongside our military overseas. You would think that if there were any group—any group—whose immigration status got a special level of care from our government, it would be those whose lives are in danger in their home country because they served courageously alongside our forces. That has not been the case under Donald Trump.

For example, there have been reports on an Afghan pilot on the run from the Taliban because his clearance to relocate in the United States was reversed. The U.S. Army pilot who trained him said:

He's marked as a dead man. He's done all he can there. . . . If anyone needs to be a U.S. citizen, it's him.

But the Trump administration, which initially approved his relocation, went back on its word. This pilot is now reportedly in hiding with his wife and their 4-year-old daughter. They are among tens of thousands of Afghans and Iraqis whose lives are in danger

waiting for the U.S. Government to decide on their immigration status.

The number of these courageous individuals brought to the United States has plummeted under Donald Trump, again, because of this anti-immigrant bias.

I remember the late-Senator John McCain speaking often about why our country needed to protect those who helped our men and women in battle. John McCain said it wasn't just a moral issue but also a national security issue. He said: Won't it be harder to get people to help our soldiers in the future if America abandons those who have helped us in the past? For Donald Trump, it seems hostility toward immigrants overrides even America's national security.

Donald Trump has often claimed he supports immigration. He once hijacked a naturalization ceremony, which is supposed to be a solemn event, no politics. He stole that moment from the group of people becoming citizens so he could go on and on about false claims about his position on immigration. He said he wanted "tremendous numbers of people to go in."

Over the last, I guess, 8 or so minutes, I have proved that sure is not true. The reality is, Donald Trump cut legal immigration in half. If I were to walk through every cruel and inhumane thing this administration has done to immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees, we would be standing here until the beginning of January.

It is going to be hard work dismantling Donald Trump's paper wall, but it is a must-do for the President and Vice President-elect. I know they agree.

I want to close my remarks by talking a little bit about why immigration matters. As an Oregonian, I can tell that you that Oregon is clearly stronger today because of our openness to immigrants and refugees and asylum seekers. We call it, at home—people hear me talk about it here—the Oregon Way. It is about fundamental decency. There is no other way to describe the Oregon Way than those two words, "fundamental decency."

Here is an example of how the Oregon Way collides with the Trump policies pertaining to visas. Twelve years ago, an Iraqi boy named Mustafa came to Oregon to receive badly needed medical care. He was very injured. He lost a leg during the U.S. bomb strike. He needed complicated surgeries that couldn't get done in Iraq, so a group of Oregonians worked with a nonprofit to bring him to my hometown of Portland.

Mustafa got good care and was able to go home. The plan was for him to come back to Oregon, periodically, for ongoing treatment. Back home in Iraq, however, communication was difficult, and his family was displaced by Islamic State militants.

Miraculously, in 2016, Oregonians recognized Mustafa on the TV news from a refugee camp outside Fallujah. It was clear he still dealt with serious health problems. Again, Oregon citizens and

nonprofits went to bat for him. Again, they worked to bring him to the United States for care, except this time—this time, the Trump administration closed the door to Iraqis. They were out of luck.

My staff and I got involved, and together with all of these dedicated Oregonians, we were able to work with the Embassy and get key officials to get a temporary visa for Mustafa and his mom. He got the lifesaving care he needed. The Oregon Way actually beat back Trump's hostility to immigration.

Now, supporting immigration is not just the decent thing to do, it is also the smart thing to do for our economy. My State is a perfect example. From the high-tech economy in the "Silicon Forest" to our wonderful family farms all across the State, immigrants contribute every day to our economy.

Nationwide, on average, communities with more immigrants have stronger and more dynamic economies. Immigrants are more likely than those born in the United States to participate in the labor force. Immigrants are more likely to own a small business. Immigrants are more likely to move for employment and take jobs that otherwise go unfilled. Those immigrants, plug gaps in our economy. They plug gaps in our job market. Immigrants are more likely to be entrepreneurs. Their kids are more likely to want to just work and work and work, and they have shown that they are more likely to climb the economic ladder.

Immigration has also proven to be a big economic and population boost for our rural communities, which too often, in too many parts of the country, somehow look like people just are willing to turn them into economic sacrifice zones, compared to the focus on the cities and suburbs.

Our colleges and universities desperately need more foreign-born students. Most foreign-born students pay full sticker price and subsidize the students born in the United States. Due to COVID and anti-migrant policies, fewer and fewer international students come to study in American schools. They are choosing to study in other countries instead. And you can bet those other countries are happy to welcome the bright minds at our expense and let them find a way to help their economies.

Our schools struggle to keep the doors open under these conditions. They have managed to block some Trump policies that are particularly harmful to students. I am very proud that my alma mater, the University of Oregon, led one of those lawsuits.

But still, many schools are likely to close. And if there are fewer international students coming here who are subsidizing Americans, the price that American-born students pay for a college education goes up. It is legislative malpractice for the lawmakers to allow that to happen when it is a crisis you know is headed this way. It is, obvi-

ously, in our interest to be a magnet for the best and the brightest.

Immigrants also protect vital safety net programs that Americans care so deeply about. With 10,000 people reaching retirement age every day, our country needs more workers, more people paying into Social Security, more people paying into Medicare, welcoming into the country more working-age people who can help shore up those trust funds. It can help to protect the Medicare guarantee and help ensure that Social Security pays full benefits. It is a big mistake to pass up that opportunity.

Finally, the economic boost isn't the biggest reason to support immigration. The biggest reason is immigration is about our national character; it is about our common history. Our country was founded by people with courage and audacity, people who picked up their lives and crossed oceans to start something new. Who are we to turn away all those who would follow in their footsteps? Welcoming immigrants from around the world makes us more youthful and resilient. It honors our founding.

America has always been a land of opportunity. It is why my parents loved the United States so deeply after they arrived here as frightened youngsters fleeing the worst of humanity. Decades later, because of the opportunity this country handed my parents, their son—a first-generation Jewish kid—has the honor of standing on the floor of the U.S. Senate, the honor of representing Oregon in the U.S. Senate. And what an honor it is to be able to be here this morning to talk about why the Wyden family is so grateful to the United States of America. If someday people around the world no longer see the United States as a land of opportunity, we will have strayed from America's character and purpose.

For now, the good news is that Donald Trump's Presidency ends next month. The attacks on our immigration system and on people who dream of becoming Americans will be nothing more than the angry tweets from a man voted out of office.

With the end of the Trump era, the United States can tear down the Trump paper wall and rebuild the coalition of Americans from all across the political spectrum who value the contributions of immigrants and who care for asylum seekers and refugees. It is an important part of what makes America so special.

I yield the floor, and I believe we have another speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

HONORING TYLER HERNDON

MR. TILLIS. Mr. President, I am here today to honor the life of Officer Tyler Herndon, a member of the Mount Holly Police Department in North Carolina, not far from where I live. He tragically lost his life in the line of duty last week, just days before his 26th birthday.

Officer Herndon will be laid to rest today, and I want to take a moment to honor his life, his service to his community, and speak about the noble profession he chose.

Officer Herndon was responding to a report of a break-in on Friday morning, and upon his arrival, he was murdered on the scene. He had been a police officer at Mount Holly for less than 2 years. He is described by his colleagues on the Mount Holly Police Department as “the guy you just couldn’t help but like.” He was active in his community, not only as a law enforcement officer but as a volunteer in local schools. His goal was to become an FBI officer, and he was just approaching the 2 years he needed as a police officer to become eligible to apply for the FBI.

Officer Herndon’s life and promising career were senselessly taken away. His tragic death is a reminder of the dangers our men and women in blue face every single day that they go to work to protect our communities.

In 2020, this year, we have lost 47 police officers who have been killed in the line of duty across the United States. Of those, 8 were ambushed in premeditated attacks, 2 were victims of an unprovoked attack, and 37 officers were killed in the line of duty. These gruesome killings are in addition to the hundreds of officers who have been shot and injured this year.

These 47 Americans are not only law enforcement officers—they are someone’s parent; they are someone’s spouse; they are someone’s child. That is a point that has unfortunately been neglected by some, especially given the shameful effort to not only minimize the work of law enforcement but to also demonize it.

Law enforcement officers put their lives on the line to keep us safe every single day. Our debates in Congress should not be about whether to defund or abolish the police; they should be about how we can respect and support law enforcement through greater investments and commonsense reforms.

I will never turn my back on the brave men and women of law enforcement who protect North Carolina and protect communities across this great Nation.

Congress needs to start showing more support and respect for law enforcement, not only through our words but through our actions, and we must hold violent criminals who target them accountable. That is why I and several other Senate colleagues have introduced the Protect and Serve Act. It is legislation that would create Federal penalties for individuals who deliberately target local, State, and Federal law enforcement officers with violence.

Next Congress, I plan to reintroduce this legislation and work to build support until its passage because, with increased penalties like those proposed in the Protect and Serve Act, criminals may start thinking twice before targeting an officer, and if they choose to do it, they are going to regret it.

There is no doubt that being a law enforcement officer is one of the hardest and most dangerous jobs in this country, but it is also one of the most noble and honorable professions. They run to danger to protect others. They are fully aware of those dangers as they go through the police academy and begin their career as officers. Yet they do it every single day.

Tyler Herndon is an officer who answered the call, ran into danger to protect others, and lost his life. My thoughts and prayers are with Officer Herndon’s family, the Mount Holly Police Department, and the community he served. I want Tyler Herndon’s family and law enforcement across the State of North Carolina to know that we will never forget the sacrifice he made and they make every day and that we are going to work hard to get them the respect and the resources they deserve.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

CORONAVIRUS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise to honor and pay tribute to our Senate colleagues who are departing at the end of this Congress. I was able to work with all of them in different ways, and we are going to miss them.

Before that, I did want to mention the importance of the continuing negotiations on end-of-the-year pandemic relief. I have been involved in those, and I want to thank those Members who have been at the forefront of this all through the weekend, all through the last few weeks.

I cannot stress how important it is right now. My State just got through a spike in COVID. We lost so many people. We have so many small businesses, like so many States in this country, that are closed down.

While we see the light at the end of the tunnel with the vaccine, I talked to a friend of mine whose husband is an infectious disease doctor, and she said when she saw those trucks rolling out in Michigan, she just started to sob just seeing it on TV. I think that is how a lot of people in this country feel, but it is on us right now to make sure we get the funding so that vaccine gets distributed as it should and to also ensure that our economy is in a place that when we start going back into the workplace—not just virtually—we will be able to bounce back as we should, and that means pandemic relief at the end of this year.

TRIBUTE TO DOUG JONES

Mr. President, so my departing colleagues—and I like every single one of them. I will start with my good friend Senator DOUG JONES.

Throughout the years, I have gotten to know DOUG, as so many of us have, as a colleague but more importantly, as a friend. These past few years have not been easy for anyone, but what they have called for are leaders who will do what is right and who are willing to show courage and take risks.

One of those leaders is DOUG JONES, a native of Fairfield, AL, and the son of a father who worked in the steel industry. My grandpa worked in the iron ore business underground. I know a little bit about this.

DOUG graduated from the University of Alabama and the University of Alabama Law School. Afterwards, he served as a top aide for his home State Senator Howell Heflin. I still remember Howell Heflin. Long after Walter Mondale had left government, I was working with him in Minnesota, and Howell Heflin would call for him, and the accent was a little hard for a Minnesotan to get through. I remember Mondale, literally within a few hours, howling with laughter when he took the call. I am sure he was a great mentor for DOUG to have when he first got into politics.

DOUG then became the U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Alabama, and in 2017 he became the first Democrat to represent Alabama in the U.S. Senate since 1997.

I will never forget the first speech DOUG gave on the Senate floor. It was about gun violence, calling for bipartisanship and pragmatism and for the courage to seize the moment. He actually quoted Senator Heflin, saying:

Our Constitution itself came about through a series of great compromises; it was not written by ideologues who clung to their way or no way. Compromise and negotiation—the hallmarks of moderation—aimed at achieving moderate, centrist policies for our country should not be viewed as negatives.

DOUG believed in a simple philosophy when he was here: Never compromise your principles—and he certainly showed us that—but work with your colleagues, Democrat or Republican, to move our country forward.

I remember what he said about gun safety in his maiden speech. He was hopeful that we may have reached a tipping point because “our young men and women are awakening the conscience of America.”

That is something that DOUG has done in his time in the U.S. Senate, and he showed it even before that when, as a prosecutor, he brought closure to the families of the four little girls killed in the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing by prosecuting those who sought to use fear, hatred, and violence to inhibit the rights of others. He did that for his State because that was his job, but in so doing, he brought closure and justice for our Nation.

We are all fortunate to call DOUG a friend. He has been a champion for veterans. After the tax bill had a problem with survivor benefits for Gold Star families, it was DOUG who introduced the bill to fix the problem and got it passed for those who had already made the ultimate sacrifice.

It has truly been an honor and a privilege to work alongside Senator JONES. Integrity and decency—those are the words I think about when I think about DOUG JONES, and he will be missed in this Senate.

TRIBUTE TO TOM UDALL

Mr. President, Senator UDALL of New Mexico has been an incredible steward and champion of so many of the things at the heart of our country's greatness, like America's great outdoors and natural lands, a culture enriched by our Tribal nations, and an enduring commitment to democracy. America's environment, our Native communities, and our right to vote are some of the fundamental elements that make this country so unique, and Senator UDALL has faithfully served the people of New Mexico and all Americans as an incredibly gifted national leader on these issues and so many more.

I got to serve with Senator UDALL on the Commerce Committee, where during the pandemic we worked together to bridge the digital divide and expand broadband, especially for our Tribal communities, where, as we all know, he served as the ranking member, the top Democrat, on the Indian Affairs Committee.

I also was proud to serve with Senator UDALL in the Rules Committee. We worked on Native American voting rights together, but he was the lead. He was the lead on so many bills that would make our democracy better. I hope that one of his legacies is that, when he is gone, we will be able to finally put these laws into operation and get them done.

One of his great pieces of legislation was a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United, and one day we will get this done. So many people are tired of the money streaming into our politics, the fact that we have hidden money streaming into our politics, and his amendment would fix so much of this.

He was also cofounder of the Congressional International Conservation Caucus, where he left his mark on this country with his work to protect public lands and national parks while promoting America's leadership in conservation.

From his years as New Mexico's attorney general to his 10 years of service in the House of Representatives and his 12 years as a U.S. Senator, TOM UDALL has been literally a giant in public service. No one should be surprised. He once summed up what drove him by saying: "The thing that inspired me the most when I was very young was the idea that if you had a good idea of reforming something and you really stuck to it, you could literally change the world."

Well, I am going to miss Senator UDALL, and we are also going to miss his wife Jill, whom I got to know well. I have a fond memory of one of the new Senator orientations where Tom and Jill and my husband John and I were tasked with talking to the arriving Senators a few years ago, brand-new, in this building and giving them tips on how they operate and how they handle their first few years and how you can stay married while being a U.S. Senator. I remember it fondly because

MITT ROMNEY was sitting in the front row taking notes diligently, and I thought maybe he didn't need our advice on this.

But Tom and Jill are just an incredible couple in a town where it is not always easy to keep such a strong, beautiful relationship.

So I want to thank Senator UDALL for his work on behalf of his State, the beautiful State of New Mexico, and thank the State for sharing their extraordinary Senator with the Nation for so many years.

Senator UDALL, thank you for your service, and I know there is more to come.

TRIBUTE TO PAT ROBERTS

Mr. President, my colleagues, Senator PAT ROBERTS, as we know, is the longest serving member of Congress in Kansas history. He leaves the Senate as a giant in his home State and a true champion for the people of Kansas.

In his words, he is a Kansan "through and through," born in Topeka, earning his journalism degree from Kansas State, and representing Kansas for 16 years in the House and 22 years in the Senate.

I serve on the Agriculture Committee, and he has been my chairman. I have been proud to serve with him as a fellow farm-State Senator, where he has been a champion for the breadbasket of America, as Kansas is known.

He has also worked tirelessly to honor those legendary Kansans who came before him. Earlier this year, Senator ROBERTS was there to cut the ribbon at the dedication of the Eisenhower Memorial, a monument he has been devoted to as chairman of the Eisenhower Memorial Commission, and I know he is one of the few members of Congress who can actually say he met President Eisenhower. At the dedication, Senator ROBERTS remarked that "Eisenhower understood one person's ability to chart his or her own course and change the course of the world." That is something Senator ROBERTS has done often, in a quiet manner.

I have really admired the way he worked across the aisle with Senator STABENOW every day. They didn't always agree on everything, but they found common ground. I got to work with him on a number of issues—ensuring that our wheat growers would get sorely needed relief through the CARES program, making the Tax Code consistent with how farmers finance new equipment, and protecting our food supply chain through investments in science and research.

When I think about the legacy Chairman ROBERTS will leave, I think about those investments in science and research through the creation of the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research and the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility.

Both of these facilities will play a critical role in helping today's farmers and ranchers tackle the many challenges that they face. He has also been cochair of the Senate Rural Health

Caucus, working to ensure quality healthcare—not just in urban areas where it is so important but also in rural areas.

We both come from families of newspapermen. Senator ROBERTS' great-grandfather, J.W. Roberts, founded the Oskaloosa Independent, the second oldest newspaper in Kansas. And my dad started at a Minneapolis paper as a sports reporter, where his main beat was the Minnesota Vikings. Maybe the things that we have in common stop there, but, certainly, that newspaper background is something we have talked about and shared.

I will miss Senator ROBERTS' humor, and I will miss his good work and look forward to continuing to work with Senator STABENOW and Senator BOOZMAN as leaders of the Agriculture Committee.

TRIBUTE TO LAMAR ALEXANDER

Mr. President, next, Senator ALEXANDER. Senator ALEXANDER has served the people of Tennessee for more combined years as Senator and Governor than anyone else from their State. With both Senator ROBERTS and Senator ALEXANDER, we literally will be missing people who bring to this place the strong sense of commitment and long service to our government.

Senator ALEXANDER has served our country as he worked to find consensus on the issues that matter most—like education, healthcare, mental health and addiction. I saw him work day by day with Senator PATTY MURRAY, and they were able to pass so many bills to show this Chamber that, in fact, you can get little things done—yes—but you can also get big things done, including the changes that they made that were long needed to No Child Left Behind, including the changes in the work that they have done when it comes to healthcare.

As he gave advice to his successor, incoming Senator Bill Hagerty, LAMAR said, "It's hard to get here, in the United States Senate. It's hard to stay here. And while you're here you might as well try to accomplish something good for the country."

Like his many quips—and I have read his book, his red plaid book of advice—and the many things he has shared with me for advice, including running for President, which may not have worked for either of us, but you could tell the love that he brought to the people of this country and the people of his State and how he talked about them and how he approached his work.

As a former Secretary of Education under President George H.W. Bush, president of the University of Tennessee, and as chairman of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, Senator ALEXANDER, we know, has worked tirelessly to ensure every child can succeed.

In addition to the work I just mentioned that he did with the Every Student Succeeds Act and the work he did on the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, he has also

led legislation to help people in their youngest years as well as their senior years. I appreciated especially the work that he did on Alzheimer's and making sure that we continue to invest in our science and education.

One little fact you may not know in all the tributes that have come out about Senator ALEXANDER—and I was here for his speech—is that every summer for 25 years, he and his wife and four children have gone to the Boundary Waters to canoe and fish. The Boundary Waters in Northern Minnesota is very close to where my dad grew up. In fact, it is the town that is the gateway to the Boundary Waters in Ely, MN, something that—way back when Senator ALEXANDER was going there for the first few years—my dad was writing about for the newspaper in an effort to make sure we kept the Boundary Waters protected.

I certainly hope that Senator ALEXANDER continues to spend time there and enjoy our lands and help the work that he has done—which he has seen on the Great American Outdoors Act—and see it firsthand.

We know that his red and black flannel shirt will be welcome in Minnesota. It is something we see everywhere in Northern Minnesota and throughout our State, and we hope to see him back soon.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL B. ENZI

Mr. President, next, my friend Senator ENZI. True collegiality and camaraderie have sometimes been hard to come by in Washington these past few years, and that is why I think about someone who never lets the temperature rise, who is always willing to find that common ground. As I heard him say and have heard him say many times before his closing speech here, in his words, "I always believed we could agree on 80 percent of the issues and on 80 percent of each issue, and that if we focus on the 80 percent, we can do great things for the American people." I remember his saying that when he would work with Ted Kennedy—and their genuine friendship—and I remember he said that many times to me as we worked on bills together.

One of the first bills that I worked on a few years coming in here was with Senator ENZI, and it was about our paramedics and using the experience that they had gained serving in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, making sure that when they came home, they could use that experience immediately and put it to work on being paramedics in our own country because we had a shortage, and we still do, and we wanted to respect that experience—so many of them in small towns where they would have to travel then to get the final degree they needed to be able to continue working as a paramedic. MIKE and I wanted to make sure that experience they had in serving our country would be put to good use and would allow them to get those degrees faster.

I was also fortunate to work with MIKE on trying to turn the page on

U.S.-Cuba policy and forge a new path. He was always willing to work with me on that and be one of the cosponsors of my bill to lift the embargo—something that I hope will eventually get done in his honor, as he understood that the way to get to democratic change in Cuba was by enhancing our relationship and that the Cuban people did not necessarily share the same views—and many of them do not—of their government and that so many people in Cuba love America and that it was very important for us to improve that relationship.

As chair of the Budget Committee—and one of only two accountants in the Senate—Senator ENZI has also been dedicated to addressing our deficit and debt challenges. He has long urged the Federal Government to move to biannual budgeting, something that I support, as well, and something that my friend JEANNE SHAHEEN has been working with him on.

Senator ENZI has a lot of smart proposals that he has put forward. I mostly, though, will remember his spirit—his spirit that we saw, and see, every week at the Prayer Breakfast—of course, he can still come back to that as a former Member—but also the work that he did in the Senate and how he would genuinely try to find common ground.

I have told him many times how much I love his State, having once bicycled from Minneapolis to Jackson Hole to get there—1,200 miles in 11 days with my dad—and when my husband and I, in the middle of the pandemic, decided to drive one place this summer, we drove to Wyoming and hiked in the Tetons. So I look forward and I hope to see MIKE and Diana there, and my hope for him is all the best in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO CORY GARDNER

Mr. President, Senator GARDNER. Senator GARDNER and I served together on the Commerce Committee, and throughout his tenure as a Member of Congress, he has been a champion of public lands, and, of course, with the beautiful, beautiful national parks in Colorado, I think you couldn't be doing your job for your State if you weren't such a leader on lands.

He worked tirelessly to pass the very important Great American Outdoors Act—historic legislation that invests in our commitment to ensuring our Nation's trails, public lands, parks, and open spaces remain protected and accessible for generations while also permanently funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund. I was proud to cosponsor this legislation, which, as you all know, was signed into law in August.

We have also worked together on the Commerce Committee on travel and tourism, hit especially hard during this pandemic. He may have a little bigger ski hills than we have in Minnesota, maybe some higher mountains than we have, but we both share not only a love for the outdoors but also an under-

standing of how much tourism contributes to our economy.

Together, we worked, along with Senator BLUNT and Senator CORTEZ MASTO, to reauthorize the bipartisan Brand USA bill, which was also signed into law. Since 2013, Brand USA has generated a total economic impact of nearly \$48 billion by allowing our country to pair up with the private sector to reach out to visitors, to get them to come to America, whether it is the Rocky Mountains in Colorado or whether it is the Mall of America in Bloomington, MN. Last year, Brand USA generated \$4.1 billion in incremental visitor spending, resulting in a marketing return on investment of 32 to 1.

I also have fond memories of getting to know Senator GARDNER and his wife, both at the last inauguration, at the lunch, which I will just share—not every detail, but let's say it was a memorable lunch that we had. Then, also, we, one time, got to do a humor speech together when there was a last-minute cancellation, and I had 3 hours to fill in for the Winter Gridiron Dinner, and Senator GARDNER did not find out until I got there and had to quickly change his jokes from Senator WARNER/TOOMEY. The jokes about billionaires didn't really fit my fiscal situation—or millionaires. Senator GARDNER was great, and we had a lot of fun that night as well.

We are going to miss him and miss all of these Senators. One of the reasons I wanted to do this all at once was that I think we have to remember that this Senate and this institution is bigger than ourselves, that people do come and go, and they all make their marks. You don't necessarily remember the names of everyone—nor does everyone in your State—who is there late at night either passing the Great Outdoors Act or the one who is willing to work with a freshman Democratic Senator to get a bill passed on paramedics or to be willing to take that little bit of a risk and work on some issues that maybe aren't popular in your own political party. All of these Senators in their own way have shown that courage, whether it is DOUG JONES giving his first speech on gun safety or whether it is Senator TOM UDALL, who had a decision to make in what he knew would be his last 2 years: Was he going to be the ranking member of the Rules Committee or the Indians Affairs Committee? He chose Indian Affairs because he knew that that mattered and that this was a group of people who had been so long overlooked, and he was going to spend his last 2 years helping them.

I will miss all of these Senators. I know that they know their work will live on, but it is just a reminder to all of us that maybe in 100 years they won't remember who we are, but people will be benefiting for generations to come from their work.

I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:30 p.m. recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. CAPITO).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, all postcloture time on the Kirsch nomination expire at 5 p.m. today; further, that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; finally, that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Crytzer nomination be waived.

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

UNITED STATES SENATE

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, in Jon Meacham's biography of President George W. Bush—actually, I believe it is in the biography of President George H. W. Bush—Meacham quotes Prescott Bush, H.W. Bush's father and Senator Prescott Bush, of Connecticut, as saying that the Senate is the place where everybody in politics ultimately wants to be. Senator Prescott Bush, of Connecticut, said that the U.S. Senate is the place in politics where everybody in politics ultimately wants to be.

I have noticed that over the years, after an election, usually we have lost about 10 Members of the Senate—sometimes a couple more, sometimes a couple less. This year, it is 7. If you look at Georgia and what one has to go through to stay here or to get here given the amount of money being spent and the number of things being said in those two races, you would think that there might be a shortage of people today who would want to follow Senator Prescott Bush's advice but apparently not.

Instead of 10 people leaving this year, it is only 7, and only 4 of us are retiring voluntarily. I would like to take just a minute or two about each of the other six U.S. Senators who will not be coming back in the next Congress.

TRIBUTE TO MARTHA MCSALLY

Madam President, MARTHA MCSALLY arrived with the same enthusiasm that she showed when she set records for women in combat as a pilot. She is a warrior. She knows how to take a hill. If you listened to her maiden address, which I did, and to her farewell address, which I did, she had a great sense of purpose, and she had her usual effectiveness during her relatively short period of time in the U.S. Senate. She was able to pass eight pieces of legislation and turn them into law. She made her mark during the time she was here.

TRIBUTE TO CORY GARDNER

Madam President, as for CORY GARDNER, of Colorado, when he leaves the Senate, it will become a little bit dimmer of a place because CORY GARDNER has such cheerfulness. Everyone recognizes that. He wakes up happy, and he goes to bed happy insofar as any of us here knows, and he came to the Senate with the same amount of enthusiasm.

He came to me early on and wanted to be and agreed to be the head of the America COMPETES effort. That legislation passed in 2005 and 2006—before he got here—to try to make our country more competitive in the world, but CORY took the leadership of that and led the reauthorization of it.

He spent 2 years heading the Republican Senatorial Committee and did a tremendously effective job.

Then, this year, he became a leader in the Great American Outdoors Act. Everyone agrees—there are not many times you can say that here, but everyone agrees, from the left to the right and up and down, that the Great American Outdoors Act is the most significant piece of environmental and outdoor recreation legislation in at least the last half century—since the Eisenhower years, really. It was a bipartisan parade of Senators, the President, and House Members, which is the way you get things done here. Yet, if it were a parade, you would have to say CORY, along with STEVE DAINES, was the drum major in the parade. He deserves great credit for that, and generations will be grateful to him.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL B. ENZI

Madam President, MIKE ENZI, of Wyoming, is retiring after 24 years. MIKE is an unassuming fellow. He is the only accountant in the Senate. He is impossible to defeat in Wyoming, apparently, because he drives 200 or 300 miles every weekend to every ice cream social that was invented, and if it had not been invented, he and Diana created it.

While he has been here, he has created the 80-percent rule, which says: Let's not argue about the 20 percent we disagree on, and let's look for the 80 percent we can work together on.

He was persistent in his work in the Marketplace Fairness Act, which kept the Federal Government from telling States what to tax and what not to tax and allowed the States to collect sales tax for goods that were sold in their States from out of State. That passed the Senate thanks to MIKE's work. It didn't pass the House, but the Senate agreed with Senator ENZI, and most States are grateful in this COVID period of time to have their revenues enhanced by the work of MIKE ENZI.

The Perkins Act—helping to create a better workforce in the United States—was a difficult bill to pass, but MIKE ENZI was the one who put it together.

Of course, he left his opportunity to be chairman of the committee I now chair—Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions—so that he could be the chairman of the Budget Committee. While there, he worked hard to solve a

problem that still needs to be solved—that of balancing our Federal budget, which, in the end, will require our finding a fair way to control the growth of entitlements.

TRIBUTE TO PAT ROBERTS

Madam President, PAT ROBERTS came to the Senate in 1967 in the way a lot of us have come—as a Senate aide. I came the same year. He worked for Senator Baker, who was working in the House of Representatives at the time. Yet we have seen in the Senate, through all of that time, its pluses and its minuses, and we have learned our way. PAT learned his way especially well.

I suppose he served longer on the Ethics Committee and longer on the Agriculture Committee than anyone, particularly if you count his service in the House and the Senate on the Agriculture Committees. His good humor and his resoluteness in terms of rural America and making sure that the farmers of our country have an environment in which they can succeed are legendary. I suspect for all of us, when we go sleep at night, that if PAT ROBERTS comes into our brains, the words “crop insurance” come right along behind him.

TRIBUTE TO DOUG JONES

Madam President, DOUG JONES only served for a short period of time, like MARTHA MCSALLY, but he made his mark as well.

When he gave his farewell address, I was here, and I said he reminded me of Ted Kennedy in this way: He kept his liberal principles. I didn't ever see him deviate from them, just like Ted Kennedy. He would stand back there and roar about this, that, or the other and make great fodder for the Republican Lincoln Day Dinners and Reagan Day Dinners in Tennessee. I used to say, when I was elected, if they had elected my opponent, my opponent would have come up here and moved Fred Thompson's desk over, and he would have set it right down between Ted Kennedy and Hillary Clinton and made it one vote harder for George W. Bush to have led our country and represent our values.

The Republicans liked that because they heard Ted Kennedy's liberal speeches, but I also said, when I made my maiden address, that, without my knowing it, Senator Kennedy had gone around and gotten 20 Democratic cosponsors. He was always working to get a result where he could. DOUG JONES has been the same way here, and I want to congratulate him for that.

He had a distinguished record in civil rights in Alabama—a courageous record—in prosecuting the Klansmen. He worked with TIM SCOTT, Senator PATTY MURRAY, and me—with Senator TIM SCOTT last year to permanently fund historically Black colleges, which was a goal that had been sought for many years—and he took a big step on simplifying the FAFSA, the Federal aid application form that 20 million American families fill out every year.

TRIBUTE TO TOM UDALL

Madam President, TOM UDALL and Jill, his wife, are friends of mine and Honey's, my wife. We have seen them from time to time and enjoy their company.

Tom came to the Senate with a distinguished heritage. It is hard to talk about the environment in this country over the last 75 years without mentioning Stewart Udall, Mo Udall, and now TOM UDALL and his cousins as well. He, too, was an important part of the Great American Outdoors Act. He has worked hard on the Appropriations Interior Subcommittee, working with Senator MURKOWSKI not only to clean up the nuclear waste and defend our National Laboratories—we worked together on that—but he has worked on another area, too, and that is to make the Senate work and be more effective. He and I have had some different opinions about how to do that, but I have no doubt that during his time here, he has been one of the Senators whom one might call an institutionalist. He is someone who understands as Clarence Thomas once said about the Supreme Court when someone asked him: "How can you and Justice Ginsburg get along so well when you have such different opinions?" Justice Thomas said: "We try to remember that the institution is more important than any of our opinions." I would say that this has been the attitude of Senator TOM UDALL about the Senate.

So seven of us will be leaving this place that Senator Prescott Bush said is where everybody in politics ultimately wants to be. Given how hard it is to get here and how hard it is to stay here, you would think it would be a place that people would want to be. My view of the Senate is just that—that it is hard to get here and hard to stay here, but while you are here, you might as well try to accomplish something good for the country. All of these colleagues of mine have done that, and I wanted to come to the floor today to salute each one of them.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD my remarks about each one of the Senators, as much as practical, following their remarks in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

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

Mr. ALEXANDER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

HONORING OFFICER TRAVIS WALLACE

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today with my friend and colleague from Arkansas to honor Helena-West Helena Police Officer Travis Wallace, who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty on Thursday, November 12.

Officer Wallace was trying to apprehend a suspect wanted in connection with a violent crime the previous week. Using his patrol car to block the exit of the parking lot where he spotted the suspect in the vehicle, he was fired on. Officer Wallace returned fire but was struck during the gunfight.

Officer Wallace was targeted because he was a law enforcement officer in pursuit of justice. This is a somber reminder of the dangers police officers and other members of the law enforcement community face every day. They do so willingly, not knowing the challenges they will experience when they leave the comforts of their homes and their loved ones.

Officer Wallace served with professionalism and dedication during his 10 years in law enforcement. For half his career, he worked for the Helena-West Helena Police Department, where he demonstrated his passion and commitment for helping those in need.

The Helena-West Helena police chief described Officer Wallace as an ambitious leader who was eager to help the community. Another fellow officer applauded his influence on his career and thanked him for the skills he taught his brothers in blue that have helped better protect that community.

The outpouring of support from the Helena-West Helena residents, citizens across Arkansas, and the members of the law enforcement community has given the police department strength, as members mourn the loss of this brave officer.

I join with all Arkansans in expressing our gratitude for Officer Wallace's service and his sacrifice. We celebrate his life and example of courageous, selfless public service. May his family, including his son Travis Junior, find peace in knowing their loved one lived and died a true American hero.

I yield to my colleague, Senator COTTON.

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, one of the most solemn eulogies any man can deliver is for a fallen officer killed in the line of duty. Senator BOOZMAN and I have delivered too many of these eulogies already, and we regret that we must do so again, but we want to celebrate the life and service of Police Officer Travis Wallace of the Helena-West Helena Police Department, who died last month at age 41, while attempting to bring a murder suspect into custody.

Officer Wallace and his partner recognized the dangerous suspect in a vehicle in a motel parking lot. They conducted a traffic stop. The suspect got out of his vehicle and immediately opened fire. Officer Wallace bravely and skillfully returned fire, causing the suspect to flee, but it was too late. He had already suffered grave wounds. He passed away later at the hospital, despite the valiant effort of doctors to save his life.

Officer Wallace believed that policing was his life's calling. He had worked in law enforcement for almost a decade, including 5 years with the Helena-West Helena Police Department, before his life was so tragically cut short.

In that brief time, Officer Wallace established himself as a leader and not just in his department. He was also a loving father, son, and brother, known for his sense of humor and his ability to make people smile. And he was a

man of faith, serving as a deacon at St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church.

Officer Wallace served his community with honor. Tragically, he is the fourth law enforcement officer from Arkansas killed this year and the 279th officer nationwide.

Like every officer, he dedicated his life to protect and defend his community. That commitment takes courage. It requires officers to run toward danger—to approach dangerous men when every human instinct might scream to run away.

Officer Wallace did his job and did his duty with honor. Now his watch has ended, but we will always remember the great sacrifice he made to keep his community and our State safe.

May he rest in peace.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO HENRY C. "HOPPY" SHORES

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I rise today to honor a good friend of mine and to thank Commissioner Henry C. "Hoppy" Shores for his many years of service to Kanawha County, WV, and America.

Hoppy was born in Dunbar, WV, during the Great Depression. Hoppy lost his parents at a young age and moved in with his sister on the West Side of Charleston.

In high school he attended a school which was then called Stonewall Jackson High School. Hoppy was a standout athlete. He played as a running back on the 1947 State championship team.

In 1949, he won West Virginia's Kennedy Award, as the State's top high school football player of the year. It was also during his high school years that Hoppy got an interest in politics when he first ran for and won the senior class presidency.

But the most important thing that happened during those formative years was on the first day of high school, when Hoppy first met the love of his life, Bronson Garcelon. They have been married since 1953, and I can personally attest—living in the same town—that they have been inseparable ever since.

He repeated his high school success while he was in college at West Virginia University in the 1950s and again became the class president. He graduated from West Virginia University with a degree in business, and after college he enlisted in the U.S. Army, attaining the rank of major.

During the years after his service, Hoppy grew a very successful career in the insurance business.

In 1966, Hoppy was recruited to run for the Kanawha County Commission by a prominent local attorney. After he

initially refused, he eventually said, OK, he would run. He won and served an initial term, and then decided, well, maybe that is it. He stepped out for a term, but he was pulled back into the political arena and served another 6-year term. After serving that second term, he then served and ran and won two separate terms for the West Virginia House of Delegates, representing Kanawha County, his home.

In 1990, he decided to return to the Kanawha County Commission and was again elected to one of the three seats. Voters have sent him back, with my help, to the commission every year since, making him the longest serving commissioner ever in the entire State.

During his 42 years on the Kanawha County Commission, Hoppy accomplished a host of successful initiatives on behalf of our citizens. Of particular interest and importance during his tenure, by the time Hoppy has left, or is leaving, 97 percent—and we have to get that to 100—but 97 percent of the county now has potable water. And I know that sounds like a given, but extending water service to some of the areas through rural West Virginia is not an easy task, but it was one that Hoppy always tackled.

Hoppy always pushed for the health and well-being of others, and, as such, with his insistence, the commission instituted a program to provide free mammograms for county employees, leading to early detection of cancer and saving lives.

Hoppy has always been a tireless advocate for the Kanawha County airport, now called the Yeager Airport, which was named after another famous West Virginian, whom we just lost, our aviator and American hero the late Chuck Yeager.

I remember working closely with Hoppy in 2005, when the West Virginia National Guard's 130th Airlift unit was slated for closure in the Department of Defense 2008 BRAC. That is the Base Realignment and Closure report. Of course, Hoppy won that battle, too, and the 130th proudly remains at Yeager Airport.

Hoppy has accomplished so much during his time in office that I cannot possibly cover everything. However, I would be remiss if I did not mention his passion for parks; his passion for recreation; obviously, with his past, his passion for athletics; and, most importantly, the children in Kanawha County.

Hoppy has advocated for public recreation. He has pushed for baseball, football, soccer fields, golf courses, tennis courts, county fairs, hiking trails, and modern park facilities. In fact, Coonskin Park in Kanawha County, which is the largest public park in our county, is one of the nicest in the State because of Hoppy's work.

One of my favorite stories about Hoppy involves both Coonskin Park and Christmas. In the year 2006, when a small train that carried children and their families around Coonskin Park to

see the holiday lights was in bad disrepair, Hoppy jumped in to save the day. He worked to find the money and a suitable replacement, lovingly dubbing it "Hoppy's Little Express."

And can you guess who the train conductor was? That is right—Commissioner Hoppy Shores. At the time he said:

When I look into a child's eyes, and see a smile, it warms my heart to know I was able to help them with a new playground, park, baseball field or a train ride at Christmas on Hoppy's Little Express. It is all about the children.

Hoppy Shores knows what public service is all about. It is about the children and providing a better future for all those you care about. Hoppy never forgot that, and for that, he will never be forgotten.

I am sure that Hoppy has had difficult times in his life but, you know what, you would just never know it by looking at him or knowing him. He is always wearing his signature smile and always has a kind word to offer. I have never met someone who did not like Hoppy Shores, even if they disagreed with his politics.

So after 42 years of service to the Kanawha County Commission, it is my honor to congratulate Commissioner Shores on his retirement, which will take effect at the end of this month. While I will certainly miss him, as I am sure many of us will—and those, particularly, in the Kanawha County courthouse—I know Hoppy and Bronson are looking forward to spending more time with their four children—Scott, Lynn, Sherry, and Henry, who I think is called "Little Hop," and their four grandchildren and great-granddaughter.

I am also looking forward to my frequent run-ins that Charlie and I have with Bronson and Hop at The Grill, while we eat hotdogs on a Saturday afternoon on the West Side.

So on behalf of the State of West Virginia, it is my honor to extend my best wishes to my friend—all of our friend—a friend of Kanawha County and really a friend to West Virginia, Commissioner Henry C. "Hoppy" Shores, on his retirement.

Thank you, Hoppy, and congratulations.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to engage in a colloquy with my colleagues.

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

SAVE OUR SEAS 2.0 ACT

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I want to talk today with my colleagues Senator MENENDEZ and Senator WHITEHOUSE on a really important piece of legislation that is heading to the President's desk, and this is Save Our Seas 2.0.

It is the follow-on to the Save Our Seas Act that we passed in the Congress last Congress, and that was an

important one mostly about ocean cleanup, but we thought we could do more. We thought, working with different groups—so many groups—and the executive branch, the Trump administration, that we could do a lot more. So we got to work.

I want to thank my colleagues on the floor today—Senator WHITEHOUSE of Rhode Island and Senator MENENDEZ of New Jersey—for their work, their leadership, their cooperation.

Senator WHITEHOUSE in particular I really want to single out as probably the Member of the U.S. Senate who is focused on our oceans. He and I started collaborating on these issues about 6 years ago, right after I first came to the U.S. Senate, and I have learned a lot from Senator WHITEHOUSE on these issues.

We have kind of been an odd couple. We don't always agree on everything politically, but on these issues and a lot of other issues we not only agree but our teams work together, we work together, and, importantly, we are getting a lot—a lot—done.

There have been a lot of folks who have really helped us in this regard and, again, in a bipartisan way. This bill is an important bill. This bill had three committees of the U.S. Senate and eight committees in the House.

So Members—whether it was Chairman BARRASSO and Ranking Member CARPER of the EPW Committee, as I mentioned; on Foreign Relations, Chairman RISCH; and, of course, Senator MENENDEZ as the ranking member on the Commerce Committee; Chairman WICKER and Ranking Member CANTWELL; on the House side, I just got off the phone with the dean of the House, Congressman DON YOUNG, a great, great Congressman; Representative BONAMICI. She also has been a great advocate.

We all were aware of the challenge. This is a huge challenge: ocean debris, plastics. It is a gigantic challenge for my State.

Now, I brag about Alaska a lot. Here is a little bit more bragging: We have more coastline than the rest of the country combined, in terms of their coastline. So we see the garbage. We see the trash. We see it, unfortunately, washing up on the shores of Alaska, and that impacts negatively not just the environment but the economy, our fishing industry, our fishing communities, our coastal communities.

You may have heard about this World Economic Forum study that said if we don't do anything about the pollution challenge that relates to plastics, by 2050 there could be more weight in terms of plastics in the ocean than there are fish. Think about that. That is a challenge.

So we got to work, and here is the thing that I think is so exciting: This is a solvable issue. Estimates are that up to 80 percent of all plastics in the ocean around the globe come from 10 rivers in Asia and Africa. So, of course, it has a huge international component to it.

But I just want to thank both Senators WHITEHOUSE and MENENDEZ. I am going to turn the floor over to Senator MENENDEZ to say a few words on this, particularly the international side, which is so important.

I will talk a little bit more about what is in the legislation, but this is an example—and it happens a lot; we don't always read about it—of this body coming together on big issues and making a big impact.

So Save Our Seas 2.0 is heading to the President's desk. I do want to compliment the President and his team. They had a lot to do with this. They have been very motivated on these issues as well.

This is everybody coming together to address a problem that we know is a problem but that we can solve, and we are putting American leadership out front, which will be good for Alaska, good for Rhode Island, good for New Jersey, good for America, and good for the world.

Senator MENENDEZ.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, let me thank Senator SULLIVAN for his introduction of our efforts here today and to really commend him for working in such a bipartisan spirit to drive an important piece of legislation, to really address the future of future generations of Alaskans, of Rhode Islanders, and New Jerseyans—and Americans, as well as other people across the world.

I agree with Senator SULLIVAN that Senator WHITEHOUSE's name is synonymous with the oceans and his focus on this is singular and his perspective is of the utmost importance.

I want to rise to join my colleagues from Alaska and Rhode Island to celebrate the enactment of Save Our Seas 2.0 and to thank our colleagues, both in the House and the Senate, for their votes in support of the most comprehensive piece of legislation to address the growing global environmental threat of plastic waste in our oceans. I want to thank Representatives SUZANNE BONAMICI of Oregon and DON YOUNG of Alaska for their commitment and leadership in shepherding the bill through the House.

To my colleagues, Senator SULLIVAN and Senator WHITEHOUSE, it has been a great pleasure working with you on these issues. The passion, the knowledge, the persistence you have brought to solving the problem of plastic waste in the world's oceans is incredible, and it was essential to our shared success.

Plastic pollution in our oceans is truly a global problem that literally washes up on New Jersey shores, impacting businesses and communities across our State. This calamity is yet another reminder that Americans are directly impacted by the policies and practices of countries around the world. Plastic debris in our oceans does not respect international borders.

The abundance of plastic waste in our ocean requires comprehensive ac-

tion alongside the fight against climate change. Save Our Seas 2.0 will bolster U.S. leadership and global engagement to combat plastic waste and marine debris, improve plastic waste management, and enhance marine debris response and innovation.

As the ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I take special pride in the international title of this bipartisan legislation, which formalizes U.S. foreign policy to address this issue, supports USAID's work to curb ocean plastic, and encourages the United States to explore the development of an international agreement to foster cooperation on addressing plastic waste globally. I think this legislation can be the catalyst for that.

The Earth's oceans are a global resource that sustains life everywhere, whether it is your country, State, or district that has a coastline or is landlocked. Eighty percent of New Jerseyans live in a coastal area, and our economy is heavily dependent on these vibrant communities. Families who depend on our fishing, their real estate, hospitality, tourism, and outdoor recreation industries rely upon clean and safe oceans.

These families know that beyond their daily livelihoods, plastic pollution also threatens human health on a global scale. Once in the environment, plastics accumulate in and contaminate both human and animal food chains leading to an array of health risks.

Save Our Seas 2.0 calls on various agencies to research and assess the effects of microplastics and food supplies and sources of drinking water so that we can better understand the way plastic is dangerous to use.

Even at a time—this is where I will close—when Washington seems more politically divided than ever before, SOS 2.0 represents a significant bipartisan environmental victory that I sincerely hope will serve as a stepping stone toward more progress to tackle this growing global problem.

There is no single solution to the marine debris crisis. Ocean stewardship is critical to preventing the collapse of marine ecosystems that support global fisheries that feed billions of people around the world. Addressing plastic waste of the ocean supports economic growth and trade, public health, and safe recreation.

I look forward to building upon the bipartisan support we have achieved with this bill and working with the next administration on ensuring the dutiful execution of the programs we established in SOS 2.0 and securing appropriations in support of the bill's goals and objectives.

Again, with my congratulations to my colleagues and my thanks for the work they have done together, I will yield the floor to our colleague from Rhode Island.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, today is a happy day for me to be

joining my friends Senator MENENDEZ and Senator SULLIVAN here on the Senate floor to celebrate the successful conclusion of a second chapter in a long effort to address the problem of ocean plastics pollution, which has been described so well by my friend Senator SULLIVAN.

When we began, there was actually no program whatsoever on ocean plastics in the Senate. There had never been legislation in this area. With Senator SULLIVAN's support, we decided to see what the traffic would bear, see what the Senate and the House might tolerate in terms of legislating in a new area. For that, we undertook the Save Our Seas bill. And at the end of the day, after a certain amount of static, actually on both sides of the aisle, we were able to get Save Our Seas passed by unanimous consent. Every single Member of the Senate had to agree to it. To me, that was a really exciting test to the proposition that Senators actually care about this. One of my favorite moments in that whole episode was when a Senator, with whom I am often at war—Senator INHOFE of landlocked Oklahoma—became an ally and a friend and a supporter of Save Our Seas, the original bill. And he did so because he had childhood experiences on the gulf coast with sea turtles that made him care about the plastic that was piling up in the oceans and strangling and drowning sea creatures.

It has, this topic, a gift, I guess, for bringing people together. And based on that success and that unanimous consent—and it cleared the House the same way on what they call suspension over there—we undertook 2.0; 2.0 is going to be bigger, better than 1.0. And it sure is bigger, better. And the role of Senator MENENDEZ in putting some real structure to the international component of this was essential.

Senator MENENDEZ is our ranking member on the Foreign Relations Committee. In that role, he was essential in seeing to it that this bill, with such a big Foreign Relations Committee footprint, cleared that committee with momentum and good to go.

We are now in the happy position that 2.0 has passed as well. It creates a new marine debris foundation. It creates a genius prize for innovation in trying to get rid of or reinvent or reimagine our plastic disposal system. It creates new research to tackle this issue. It focuses more, as I said, directly on our international relations because so much of the marine plastic waste comes out of foreign shores and down foreign rivers. It also focuses on our domestic waste management program.

This is a good step. I have heard people say that 2.0 is not enough. Darn right it is not enough, but this is how you build momentum. You prove that you can do something and that the Senate is willing to act on it. Then, you stand on that platform and you build a bigger, better bill, and you get

that passed. And now Senator SULLIVAN and I are already discussing what 3.0 might look like.

I am not in a position to speak for Senator SULLIVAN, but I am interested in looking under the hood of the recycling industry. When you put your plastic waste into a blue bin to go off and get recycled, how much of it actually does get recycled? How can we make sure that there is, in fact, a circle in which plastic gets manufactured, put into use, brought back out of the system, and not left in the ocean, not left as waste on our lands? How can you develop what is called the circular economy for plastic?

Plastic is a weird thing. Nature hasn't seen plastic before. It doesn't biodegrade the way things that were made by the Lord biodegrade. Nothing eats it. If something does eat it, it just piles up in its body or goes through it neutrally. It provides no nutrition or value to anything. It is just this new thing out there. We need to figure out how to deal with it, and we need to get it the heck out of our oceans.

More to come on this. But let me take this moment to thank Senator MENENDEZ for his leadership, particularly, on the foreign side of this, and Senator SULLIVAN for his leadership and for being such a terrific ally in this cause.

With that, I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Let me wrap up here by mentioning that, as we already talked about, the Congressional Research Service has called this the most comprehensive ocean cleanup legislation ever to come out of the Congress. As Senator WHITEHOUSE said, 6 years ago, we were starting at nothing. And then we got Save Our Seas 1.0, primarily about cleaning up our own coastlines.

There are a lot of funny stories there, but we did have a really interesting—and I thought entertaining—signing ceremony at the White House with the President and Senator WHITEHOUSE. The two hadn't met before. They got along really well, particularly talking about this issue. And it did motivate the Trump administration to start focusing more. You may have seen in the new NAFTA, the USMCA, the first trade agreement has a whole section on ocean cleanup and a whole section on fisheries and sustainable fisheries. This is a really important precedent for the U.S. government, regardless of party.

As Senator MENENDEZ mentioned, a lot of focus internationally. I want to thank him again, in terms of the Foreign Relations Committee. Our ability to help other countries—we are certainly not perfect, but the big challenge on a lot of the oceans, in terms of cleanup and what comes onto the shores of the United States, what comes onto the shores of Alaska in terms of plastics and pollution, comes from overseas. We need to help there. As Senator WHITEHOUSE also men-

tioned, improving our domestic infrastructure to prevent marine debris—so we are setting our own example, not just helping other countries—and then enhancing our own domestic response.

Senator WHITEHOUSE mentioned this Marine Debris Foundation. This is a congressionally chartered private organization. There are not many in the country. This is a big deal. Thank the Red Cross. Thank the American Legion. These are congressionally chartered organizations that will give this effort public-private partnership energy to address the problem. That is exactly what we are focused on here, and that is why we thought it was so important to have a Marine Debris Foundation as an enduring element of the U.S. leadership that is now exemplified by Save our Seas 2.0.

I will mention one final thing. You know, one of the things that I thought was very important—we are going to keep this together—is we worked hard not to single out one industry or one area: Hey, you are not doing a good job; you need to get your act together. What we said when we put this bill together is we are going to bring in all the stakeholders—Democrats, Republicans, the executive branch, Federal agencies, industry, key environmental groups, ocean conservancy, World Wildlife Foundation—and get everybody together—the Alliance to End Plastic Waste, which is an initiative in the private sector, and say: What can we do together to solve this problem? That is what we did. All the stakeholders came together. Everybody worked closely together, good ideas, pulling on the same oar. And that is how we got this done.

You know, one of our finest Senators, LAMAR ALEXANDER, gave his farewell speech just last week, and he talked about this idea of a split screen in the Senate. Yes, there is contention. Yes, there are battles. The media loves to play those up. But there is also another element about what we do here where there is strong bipartisan support on really big issues: the CARES Act, the NDAA, the Great American Outdoors Act—probably the biggest conservation bill in 50 years—21st Century Cures; these are all things that we are getting done here that matter to the American people in a bipartisan way. You don't always read about them in the press, but they are still happening. And now we can add to that list the biggest ocean cleanup legislation in the history of the country going to the President's desk for signing here in the next couple of days. It is something our fellow Americans should know about. And as Senator WHITEHOUSE said, we are going to build on that too.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I should add a few other thank-yous because this, obviously, took a lot of effort to get through all these different committees in the Senate and

the House and to get it passed on the Senate and House floor. I want to start on the House side, with the equivalent of the Whitehouse-Sullivan show is the Young-Bonamici show on the other side; Representative BONAMICI and Representative YOUNG, whom Senator SULLIVAN mentioned, were the key people working this issue.

I want to thank my delegation, JIM LANGEVIN and DAVID CICILLINE, because, during key points when it looked like things were jamming up over there, they jumped up with their leadership and with their colleagues to help move things along, and I believe Representative YOUNG did as well.

I want to thank the majority leader, STENY HOYER, who at a really critical moment, when this could have gone one way or another, made sure it went the right way and got us teed up to get the thing done in the House and back here where we could move it in the Senate.

In the Senate, I have spoken about Senator MENENDEZ's critical role, but, of course, as chairman, Senator RISCIO also had to support and permit this to go forward. It had to clear Commerce, where Senator WICKER and Senator CANTWELL were supportive and helped move this along. Senator WICKER, indeed, has been a member of our Oceans Caucus from an early stage and has been very helpful on oceans issues.

Then on our—Senator SULLIVAN's and my—Environment and Public Works Committee, Chairman BARRASSO and our ranking member, Senator CARPER, were all very supportive.

Things like this don't get done without a lot of people pulling together, and I just wanted to make sure that I thanked all of them as I close out here on this subject.

So thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

FIRST STEP ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, as we approach the holiday season, many of us will be celebrating differently. COVID-19 may be limiting travel, family members we see in person, or other holiday traditions. Yet there is much to be grateful for.

For me, I am thankful for my health, my family, my country, and my staff. I am also grateful to serve Iowans and work in the Senate to tackle legislation, conduct oversight, and work for the best interests of the people of Iowa.

I am also thankful to reflect upon previous accomplishments. This time of year coincides with a milestone achievement, that being the anniversary of the passage of the FIRST STEP Act, and to remember that the criminal justice reform bill that we call the FIRST STEP Act is the most comprehensive overhaul of criminal justice legislation in a generation.

On December 18, 2018, the Senate passed the most significant criminal justice reform legislation in a generation, and 3 days later, President Trump signed the bill into law. The FIRST

STEP Act is an example of what the Senate can accomplish when we reach across the aisle to address our Nation's most pressing problems. I am proud that the FIRST STEP Act has been the law of the land now for 2 years.

The past 2 years have been uniquely challenging. In the first year of the law's tenure, I worked with Senate partners to oversee its implementation efforts. This included meeting with critical stakeholders in the Justice Department, reviewing the status of the law's implementation, and ensuring that the law's application reflected congressional intent.

In that first year, we accomplished a lot together, in a bipartisan way. Because of the FIRST STEP Act, thousands of inmates received the benefits of the retroactive application of the Fair Sentencing Act to resolve sentencing disparities that came about from legislation, I suppose, from almost 30 years ago between those convicted for crack and those convicted for cocaine.

In this first year, the Justice Department also released its risk and needs assessment system—a tool used to individually review the recidivism risk of each Federal inmate and place the inmate in programming to prevent future criminal acts. The Bureau of Prisons also issued procedures for more efficient access and use of the home confinement program.

Implementation efforts have faced significant challenges, however, namely, the COVID-19 pandemic. Fortunately, the FIRST STEP Act provided tools that the administration has been able to use to help vulnerable inmates. During the pandemic, it has become apparent that inmates who are confined in Federal prisons are among the most vulnerable populations in the United States. As they are in Federal custody, it is quite obvious the Federal Government has a duty to ensure they are treated humanely.

To that end, Senator DURBIN and I urged the increased review of compassionate release and elderly home detention cases in light of the COVID-19 cases within our Federal prisons. We also asked the Justice Department inspector general to review the use of home confinement authority, the preventative safety measures connected with it, COVID-19 testing, screening, and isolation measures, and the availability of access by inmates to electronic communication. I am pleased to say that this administration responded to many of our requests, though more work needs to be done as we continue to grapple with the effects of COVID-19 in our Federal prisons.

One of the most important issues we must address is a key provision of the FIRST STEP Act, that being the requirement for the Bureau of Prisons to make programming available to prisoners to help them to live productive lives once they leave prison, and that will make it less likely, then, they will return to lives of crime.

The coronavirus has made it impossible for the Bureau of Prisons, at least at this time, to provide this programming as the law intends and requires because, as you know, inmates must be socially distanced from each other to prevent the virus's spread, which flies in the face of meeting in person to participate in recidivism reduction programming. Therefore, as we move forward, balancing effective programming access with the CDC-approved safety measures is critical.

As I return to the leadership of the Committee on the Judiciary, whether that is as ranking member or chairman, depending upon the outcome of the Georgia races, I want everybody to know that I am going to continue to make the implementation of the FIRST STEP Act a priority and will ensure the Justice Department and the Bureau of Prisons faithfully execute the law.

Lastly, as we embark on a new Congress and a new year, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to seek the middle ground on criminal justice reform. We have done it before, and we can do it again, and more needs to be done.

The FIRST STEP Act has made a difference in the lives of thousands of prisoners, and it will continue to impact many in the Federal criminal justice system. It gives prisoners a better opportunity to leave their criminal pasts behind and become productive members of society. In fact, we learned that from States like Texas, Mississippi, and North and South Carolina, where they actually did a good job of preparing people to return to society, with productive lives, saving the taxpayers money if there is not recidivism. Some of those States have even shut down some prisons.

Alerted to that, too often, Congress waits to learn something from our laboratories of our political system—the States. We learned a lot that brought about the FIRST STEP Act. There is more that we can learn, and we can build on the FIRST STEP Act. It is remarkable what we were able to achieve 2 short years ago. I am hopeful to carry that spirit into 2021 and beyond, whether I am chairman or ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

SPECIAL INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR PANDEMIC RECOVERY EXPEDITED HIRING AUTHORITIES ACT OF 2020

Now, Madam President, I have one other short point I would like to make that deals directly with negotiations going on right now for a COVID-19 package that we are trying to put together. Some people call it a stimulus package or something that could be put in the omnibus appropriations bill.

This goes back to the CARES Act that we passed in March when Congress authorized the creation of a Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery to oversee the billions of dollars in new Federal spending—hence, to make sure that those Federal dollars were spent according to the law. In the past, when

Congress created a special inspector general to fill a sudden need in new government oversight, this Congress quickly followed with additional legislation to provide the IG with expedited hiring authority to staff his new offices and also to begin timely oversight operations. Such timely oversight operations are particularly needed now because so much of this CARES money that was appropriated in March has gone out the door.

So, in the tradition of past Congresses setting up other special IGs to fill a sudden need, I introduced S. 3751, a bipartisan piece of legislation modeled on past special IG expedited hiring authority language. My bill provides the IG a short 6-month window to quickly hire the staff he needs to build his organization and begin carrying out the oversight mandated by Congress under the CARES Act. However, as of today, my bill still hasn't passed, and IG Miller has been left to work with an office that is still highly understaffed.

That is an outcome that should concern everyone here in the Senate if you are passionate about government oversight and making sure that money is spent responsibly. Whenever the government spends large sums of money, as we have in addressing this pandemic, there will always be bad actors somewhere out there, lying in wait, to test the system to see how much they can steal. We need a fully staffed and fully functional IG in place to meet those bad actors head-on to serve as an effective check on waste, fraud, and abuse.

Despite broad support for my bill from both sides of the aisle, I have heard rumors that some of my colleagues across the aisle may be wary of granting expedited hiring authority to the IG simply because they don't agree with the personal politics of the individual confirmed for that position. This amounts to an attempt to nullify the IG's confirmation by limiting his ability to conduct oversight and, hopefully, to make sure that all of the money that we are spending under all of these pandemic appropriations we have made is spent according to the law; hopefully, that implies responsibly spending the money.

Congress has already made the decision to establish this IG. Now we need to give the office the resources it needs to succeed. Personal and political disagreements are not reasons to deny the American people oversight of how billions of their tax dollars are being spent. Once the IG hires staff and has the ability to begin the substantive oversight work mandated by Congress, there will, as always, be an important place for congressional oversight to ensure the IG is doing his job.

I intend to conduct the same level of oversight of this IG that I have for others. I expect my colleagues will do the same.

That is why I urge my colleagues, regardless of any personal differences that they have, to support this bipartisan legislation granting expedited

hiring authority for the Special IG for Pandemic Recovery and included in the forthcoming COVID legislation.

Now, I have heard rumors within the last hour that there has already been a decision that they are not going to move ahead on this money for hiring to get this job. If that is true, I don't want anybody, whether it is a Republican or a Democrat, to ever complain about something that comes to light, that the money wasn't spent the way it was intended to be spent or it was wasted here or wasted there. Don't complain to me.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, while Senator GRASSLEY is on the floor, I would thank him for his remarks about the First Step Act and let him know that on the Judiciary Committee, I look forward to working with him to continue to advance that.

As the Senate knows, the Grassley-Durbin segment and the Cornyn-Whitehouse segment were the two key pieces of that bill, and it is terrific to hear the Senator and our chairman at the time chose support to continue that work. So I am grateful.

What I would like to do now is to follow the conversation we had about oceans a minute ago in the context of my "Time to Wake Up" speeches.

Obviously, the oceans are taking a colossal beating from climate change, from the warming, from the chemical acidification that it causes. It is warming at a rate of multiple detonations of Hiroshima-level nuclear weapons per second in the ocean. That is the amount of heat that is added, if you want to put an image to it.

So we have done some good things on oceans in this Congress, and I would like to summarize some of those.

One, obviously, is Save Our Seas 2.0 that Senator SULLIVAN, Senator MENENDEZ, and I just discussed, but we also have a little package of enforcement provisions in the National Defense Authorization Act that focus on what is commonly called illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing—IUU fishing—which is a really boring and bureaucratic name for extremely bad behavior.

Essentially, it is modern slavery at sea for the crew, who are miserably trapped on these illegal, pirate fishing vessels. They are also an avenue for trafficking of humans, of narcotics, of arms, or whatever. Once you are out in a boat outside, beyond the realm of the law, operating illegally and doing whatever you can for money, you will do pretty much anything there is. So in addition to ransacking our common seas, these pirate fishing fleets are really dangerous vectors for really dangerous criminal conduct.

I am glad that we have put a little more heat on the Navy to up its game and report on its implementation of previously passed measures. I am glad

that we have directed the Navy to work with the Coast Guard, which has the substantive jurisdiction over all of this, and to work with the private sector involved in solutions to this. There are such things as private sector satellites that track the wake and the signal of these illegal fishing vessels, and coordinating that with our intelligence and our research I think will really help in fighting that battle, so that we are sharing the information that we can and gathering the information that we can to be more effective.

Finally, as I recall from my travels with the late Senator McCain, when you went to coastal countries near China, you always heard the same complaint. We went to the Philippines and heard it. We went to Vietnam and heard it. We went to Indonesia and heard it. There are probably others if I could remember more clearly that I could add to that list. But the complaint was that the Chinese fishing fleet is incredibly aggressive, it is trespassing into foreign sovereign waters, it is fishing illegally and outside of any respect for the domestic protections of these nations, and it is often violently protected by Chinese vessels, by navy or other vessels of the Chinese Government. So focusing on that as a place to push back and protect our oceans while at the same time diminishing this bad behavior by China is also a good thing.

So that was our suite of progress on pirate fishing in the NDAA.

In the omnibus, we expect at least \$75 million to go, for the first time, into a new fund to tackle ocean plastics and for ocean plastic work in the administration.

So those are bits of good news, and I am delighted that those things have happened. The less good news from this past year is that coasts remain sadly underfunded, and we have missed some real opportunities.

Two of the accounts that demonstrate how badly funded coasts are facing these threats from the changing oceans are the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which should properly be called the inland and freshwater conservation fund, and the Army Corps Flood and Coastal Storm Damage Reduction Fund.

If you go back and look at how this money actually gets spent, for every dollar that the Land and Water Conservation Fund spends in an inland State, in a landlocked State, per capita, it spends only 40 cents in a coastal State—a dollar per capita inland, 40 cents per capita coastal. And that actually understates the coastal discrepancy because it doesn't count the spending in coastal States that isn't on coasts. You have coastal States like New York, Pennsylvania, and Texas that have big, big upland inland areas in which most of the Land and Water Conservation Fund money goes.

So what we really ought to do is call this what it is, which is an inland and freshwater conservation fund, and have a parallel coastal and saltwater preser-

vation fund to make sure that coasts are treated fairly.

I did not even get the chance to ask for some adjustments to treat coasts more fairly as an amendment when we reconsidered the Land and Water Conservation in the so-called Great American Outdoors Act, which was frustrating because everybody—at least on my side of the aisle—talks a good game about how we need to have more amendments, we need to have more amendments. That deal got locked down before it got to the Senate floor. Nobody was allowed an amendment. So that was frustrating, but we will fight on because coasts need to be treated fairly, and with sea level rise and warming and fisheries moving about and storm surge worsening and more hurricanes, the dangers to coasts are greater than before, not less.

On the Army Corps account, that is even more extreme. If you go back through the last 10 years, the best year the coasts had in the flood and coastal storm damage account was 1 coastal dollar for every 19 inland dollars—1 coastal dollar for every 19 inland dollars. Tell me how that is fair to coasts facing those same risks. And that is the best year. The worst year was 120 times more for inland projects than for coastal projects—less than a penny on the dollar. Less than a penny on the dollar for America's coasts.

So we have a lot of work to do to make sure that we are doing what we need to do for our coasts. I am hoping that we can move the OFFSHORE Act—that there is even a faint chance of getting it done in the last few days. It had a successful hearing in Energy and Natural Resources. It has 19 bipartisan cosponsors, including Commerce Chairman WICKER, and it would treat wind energy offshore the same way for revenues that we treat oil drilling offshore—i.e., 37.5 percent to the nearby State, 12.5 percent to a dedicated fund. In this case, it would be the Oceans and Coastal Fund because it is oceans and coastal. It is one of the ironies that most of the money that comes off of coastal oil drilling—offshore oil drilling—gets moved into the Land and Water Conservation Fund, where it goes out West and is spent on inland, not coastal, projects.

So we continue to have real work to do. There is the BLUE GLOBE Act, which I have with Senator MURKOWSKI, on data monitoring in the oceans and Great Lakes—we are going to continue to push forward—and our Blue Carbon bill, which will help us address the changes in the oceans that climate change is wreaking. With Blue Carbon, things like growing mangroves are incredibly powerful as a carbon sink, kelp and sea grass—to get that research done and do the work we need to to deacidify our oceans while we still have reefs that are alive.

My ideal would be a "big blue bill"—a big blue bill that combines BLUE GLOBE, Blue Carbon, and others and,

for once, finally, finally, finally, finally, finally takes our oceans and coasts seriously.

I get that we are terrestrial mammals, but a lot of us care for our coasts, a lot of us care for our seas, a lot of our economies are dependent on our oceans, and the health of the planet is dependent on the cooling and on the oxygen that oceans provide. So we mess around with our oceans at our peril.

I hope that the Biden administration will take climate change as deadly serious as it needs to be taken and that it will step up a significant step from the degree of attention climate change got in the Obama administration.

We have to recognize the danger to our future if we remain negligent—it is that simple. And we have to make sure we free ourselves from the thrall of the fossil fuel industry's climate denial machine because the fossil fuel industry does not want what is best for America, does not want what is best for people, does not want what is best for oceans and the environment; it wants what is best for its profits, period, and end of story.

So we really, really, really, under the Biden administration, need a serious climate bill to safeguard the oceans on the only planet that we call home.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as if in morning business.

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

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I rise today to unfortunately look back with sadness on the deadly toll of COVID-19 this year. I will focus my remarks on my home State of Pennsylvania, but of course the stories that I will relate about individuals we lost—of course many of them could be told in so many other States.

As of today, the middle of today, there have been some 301,264 deaths in the United States due to COVID-19, including 12,890—12,890—deaths in Pennsylvania. While I wish I could recognize and honor the memories of each of those individuals, that recognition, of course, would take longer than I have time set aside on the floor to speak, so instead I will share the stories of just 5 Pennsylvanians who have lost their lives to this terrible disease—5 stories, 5 families, from one corner of our State to the other, east to west, throughout our 67 counties.

REMEMBERING WALTER RASICH

The first person I will talk about is Walter Rasich. Walter moved into Whitehall Manor, which is a long-term care facility in Whitehall, PA. That is in Lehigh County, which is on the eastern border of our State, on the border just next to New Jersey, the so-called Lehigh Valley.

Walter moved into that long-term care facility in October of 2019. Wal-

ter's son Andy shared his story with my office.

Walter Rasich was a widower, and he has two sons and two daughters. He was a beloved grandfather to eight and a great-grandfather to seven. He was also an avid toy collector of Matchbox cars. Some of Walter's pastimes were working in the garage, hunting and fishing with his children, and also being with his grandchildren and his great-grandchildren.

Walter retired after 42 years, working as an electrical inspector for the steel industry.

Walter's nursing home locked down when the pandemic hit, and his family, like so many American families, was no longer allowed to visit. On April 20, 2020—that was a Monday—his son received a call that his father was going to the hospital with a fever of 102. Walter's family learned that Walter had passed away on April 24, just 4 days later—Thursday, April 24, 2020. He was 86 years old. They learned that he was the third resident of his nursing home to die of COVID-19.

So we express our condolences to Walter's family.

REMEMBERING KARIN PORTER

Karin Porter of Philadelphia spent 35 years as an investigator for the Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which many know as the EEOC. As many people know, the EEOC is responsible for enforcing Federal anti-discrimination laws in the workplace and protecting workers and job applicants who have faced discrimination.

Karin was from Philadelphia, as I mentioned, and she raised her granddaughter Krystin. According to Krystin, Karin loved to travel. She loved to swim and to dance, and she was an avid shopper. Everyone loved Karin, and she was always the life of the party.

Karin got sick with COVID-19 right after her 69th birthday and died in April of this year.

In remembering her grandmother, Krystin said: "To know her, was to love her." Like so many families, as well, Karin's death was very sudden, and like too many others this year, all across our State and across the country, she has left behind a family in grief as they endure her passing.

So we send our sympathies and condolences to Karin Porter's family.

REMEMBERING ALLAN COHEN

Third, we go from one end of our State to the other, from Philadelphia all the way to Pittsburgh, to talk about a third Pennsylvanian. This individual's name was Allan Cohen.

Allan Cohen was a civil rights leader and advocate from Pittsburgh. He was 93 years old when he passed away on July 31 of this year.

Allan spent his life fighting for justice. As a young adult, he traveled to Mississippi to help Black voters to register to vote. He was here in Washington to hear the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s famous "I Have a

Dream" speech in 1963, part of the great March on Washington that year.

Allan was a lawyer. He went to the University of Pittsburgh, both for his undergraduate degree as well as for his law degree. He specialized in "fighting for the underdog," as his son Norman said in Allan's obituary, taking on personal injury cases for blue-collar workers, just by way of one example.

He was also a dedicated family man. Allan Cohen and his wife Lois were married for 66 years. They raised two sons. Allan's wife Lois contracted COVID-19 and has been fortunate to recover. Their family describes this couple as "the perfect match."

In retirement, Allan liked to audit classes at the University of Pittsburgh, his alma mater. He also liked to garden. His son Norm recalled "the best vacations" as a child, including a cross-country road trip. Once Norm and his brother Lawrence were grown up, they would take their father Allan and their mom Lois on vacations, instead, I guess as a way to return the favor for those vacations when they were young.

Allan's family remembers him, of course, as a civil rights advocate and a skilled orator who loved to travel. In the words of his granddaughter Molly, as quoted in his obituary, "What I admire most about my grandpa was his integrity and how he always made things light and fun." Molly went on to say: "When things in the world are unjust, Grandpa always speaks up and does what he can to make a difference."

In addition to his wife, sons, and granddaughter Molly, Allan left behind seven other grandchildren and one great-grandchild. So we are thinking today of Allan Cohen's family and offer our condolences and sympathies.

REMEMBERING DR. VICTOR RIVERA

Now we go back to the eastern side of the State, to Bucks County, PA, to talk about Dr. Victor Rivera, who was a retired pediatrician from Langhorne, which is in Bucks County, of course, just north of Philadelphia, very close to the New Jersey border as well.

Dr. Rivera practiced medicine for over 40 years, treating thousands of local children. He volunteered for medical missions and cared for children abroad. He leaves behind a loving family—his wife Mila, four children, and extended family all around the world.

Dr. Rivera was fondly remembered by his community after he died from COVID-19 complications in April of this year. They described Dr. Rivera as a father figure, someone dedicated to his patients but also his staff, who connected with his patients—in the words of one person, "a kind, gentle soul."

In some cases, Dr. Rivera treated multiple generations of the same family. When his patients grew up, they brought their own children back to his care.

Many commented on his big heart, his warm smile, and his "magical" singing voice. Even when he was hospitalized for COVID-19, Dr. Rivera was

singing to the nurses in the intensive care unit and cracking jokes.

After retirement, he kept working shifts. When he wasn't working, he and Mila would travel, and that is how he contracted COVID-19, returning from an international trip just as the pandemic was worsening.

Dr. Rivera, like so many others who have died from COVID-19, leaves a big hole in his community. So we also offer our condolences and sympathies to Dr. Rivera's family.

REMEMBERING THEODORE "TED" WATTS

Finally, for the fifth Pennsylvanian whom I will talk about, we go back out to the northwestern end of the State—Northwestern Pennsylvania, Crawford County.

Theodore Watts was known as "Ted." Ted Watts, as he was known, is someone who was born in Pittsburgh, PA, but he spent most of his life in Meadville which, as I mentioned, is in Crawford County, just south of Erie, just to give people the geography.

Ted was a lawyer who first served his country in the JAG Corps of the U.S. Army. After separating from the Army, Ted married Shirley Barnett, and they settled in Meadville, PA, where Ted went into private practice.

Ted also served as the solicitor for the Penncrest School District and served as the Crawford County solicitor and the legal representative for the housing authority and the water authority of Meadville in Crawford County.

One of his most significant professional accomplishments came through his time as an attorney for the redevelopment authority, during which time he helped to set the stage for future "brownfields" legislation to safely reclaim contaminated industrial sites.

Ted is remembered by his family, friends, and colleagues for being community-oriented, a mentor, and someone who would "do anything," as someone said, for the people he cared most about.

He was an avid runner, finishing more than 40 marathons, and was the power behind the Thurston Classic, a large hot air balloon rally.

Ted loved the Pittsburgh Steelers, holding season tickets, and was both an athlete and a great coach for soccer and a referee for football.

Ted passed away from complications of COVID-19 in October of this year and leaves behind an extended family, as well as many people in Meadville and Crawford County whose lives he touched through his years of public service.

We, of course, offer our condolences and sympathies to Ted's family.

Let me say in conclusion that the Pennsylvanians whose stories I shared today are, of course, just a fraction—a fraction—of the now 12,890 deaths in our Commonwealth. Sadly, given the current rate at which the virus is spreading nationwide and in our State, the death toll will only rise higher in the coming weeks and months. On a

day like today—and, I hope, on so many other days—we pray for the grieving families who have loved and lost. They have lost someone they were very close to, someone they cared about, someone who brought joy to their lives, someone whom they will miss.

I am reminded again of the great song by Bruce Springsteen, "You're Missing." He wrote it after 9/11, and it has application, of course, to all kinds of circumstances where someone lost a loved one—lost a loved one in 9/11, lost a loved one in Iraq or Afghanistan or in so many other tragedies. In this case, I will use it to talk about what these families have lost because of this terrible virus and the COVID-19 pandemic. I won't recite, of course, all the lyrics, but Bruce Springsteen, in the song "You're Missing" has a refrain:

You're missing when I shut out the lights
You're missing when I close my eyes
You're missing when I see the sun rise

He goes on to sing the rest of the song about a person missing.

All of these families will miss their loved ones, not only when they are shutting off the lights and when they rise in the morning but every day and, in many cases, every hour of every day. So we pray for them.

And I think we have an obligation ourselves to these families. To honor those we have lost, we must all do our part.

What does that mean? It means following public health guidance regarding social distancing, wearing masks, and other steps we can all take, each of us, to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and to save as many lives as possible until the vaccines are widely available.

Let's do what we can. Of course, we should express condolences and sympathy. Of course, we should pray for an end to this terrible scourge. But we all have an obligation to do more to get those death numbers down.

But I wanted, in some small way, to recognize these Pennsylvanians, representative of all 12,890, which we pray will not grow very much from that number, just to say a word about the lives they lived and the families they left behind.

May God bless all of them.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASSIDY). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that our vote begin now.

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

VOTE ON KIRSCH NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time is expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Kirsch nomination?

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 266 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Alexander	Ernst	Paul
Barrasso	Gardner	Portman
Blackburn	Graham	Risch
Blunt	Grassley	Roberts
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hooven	Rounds
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Collins	Kelly	Shelby
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sinema
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Manchin	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Toomey
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Enzi	Murkowski	Young

NAYS—44

Baldwin	Hassan	Rosen
Bennet	Heinrich	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Jones	Schumer
Brown	Kaine	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	Markey	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Peters	Wyden
Gillibrand	Reed	

NOT VOTING—5

Fischer	Loeffler	Rubio
Harris	Perdue	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Katherine A. Crytzer, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee.

Mitch McConnell, James E. Risch, Mike Crapo, Roy Blunt, Shelley Moore Capito, Tom Cotton, John Cornyn, Chuck Grassley, Thom Tillis, Richard Burr, Pat Roberts, Cory Gardner, Lindsey Graham, Todd Young, Marco Rubio, John Boozman, John Barrasso.

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 Katherine A. Crytzer, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 48, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 267 Ex.]

YEAS—48

Alexander	Enzi	Paul
Barrasso	Ernst	Portman
Blackburn	Gardner	Risch
Blunt	Graham	Roberts
Boozman	Grassley	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Burr	Hoeven	Sasse
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Collins	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Toomey
Cruz	Moran	Wicker
Daines	Murkowski	Young

NAYS—47

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Bennet	Hirono	Sanders
Blumenthal	Jones	Schatz
Booker	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	Kelly	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Sinema
Cardin	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	

NOT VOTING—5

Fischer	Loeffler	Rubio
Harris	Perdue	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 48, the nays 47.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Katherine A. Crytzer, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROBERTS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CHINA

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I rise because in a few minutes, I am going to ask to enter into the RECORD a new report released last night by Adrian Zenz of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation. It isn't often that we enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD reports that are really things that we want our constituents to read, but this report is different. This report is a report that every American needs to know about because it makes clear two things.

First, it makes clear that cotton from Xinjiang, which is about 20 percent of all the world's cotton; it is about 85 percent of all the cotton coming out of China, but it is about 20 percent of the global cotton, and it is a lot of the best cotton on the globe—is stained by slave labor.

The second thing that it makes clear is that a lot of this cotton is destined for the United States. We are the ones demanding it, and our people are making a market for this blood cotton.

Under the guise of Orwellian terms like "poverty alleviation," the Chinese Communist Party is forcibly mobilizing minority labor—the Uighurs—to replace the majority Han Chinese labor market that has traditionally picked some of the Xinjiang cotton. Very young and very elderly folks are often sent into facilities, and everyone in between—everybody who has a body that can move into the fields—is being sent into these cotton fields for the monthslong cotton picking season.

Picking cotton is backbreaking labor, and these Uighurs who are being forced to do this as slaves are under constant surveillance. They are subjected to very long work hours, and they are forced to participate in political indoctrination sessions. Some of today's pickers have also done shifts and turns in CCP internment camps as well.

We should be very clear about what is happening here. What is happening here is an unmitigated evil. There isn't

another interpretation for this slave labor that is producing the Xinjiang blood cotton. This is an unmitigated evil, and it is obviously far more comfortable to ignore evil than to confront it head-on. Despite our many promises, it is easy to forget the human toil of totalitarianism. It is easier to just look away.

That is, of course, what the Communist leadership in Beijing is counting on. They are counting on the fact that U.S. citizens and corporate leadership and politicians will just be busy and will say: Well, that would be messy to have to confront, so we should just look away. We said we would never forget, but let's just not notice.

So we should state this truth over and over and over again. Chairman Xi's dictatorship is enslaving more than half a million Uighurs, and they are being forced to pick blood cotton. That is what this report from the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation last night clearly demonstrates.

The Chinese Communist Party is convinced that the American people and that the institutions of the U.S. Government will simply look away, so we need to say again and again that Chairman Xi's dictatorship is enslaving more than half a million Uighurs. They are being forced into slavery in the cotton fields. Much of that cotton is destined for U.S. markets, and Chairman Xi and his underlings are counting on the fact that although America raises a light of liberty in our rhetoric, they are expecting that we will just look away in practice and in fact in our marketplaces. We should not and we cannot give them that victory.

Beijing's Communist Party doesn't care about basic human dignity. The genocidal leaders who are running the government in Beijing—and, again, we need to distinguish that. Every time we talk about topics like this, we need to distinguish between the leadership of the Communist Party in Beijing and the regular 1.4 billion Chinese citizens, many of whom have nothing to do with these evils and wouldn't countenance them if they had the power. The genocidal leadership of the Communist Party in Beijing is running systematically oppressive slave regimes against the Muslims and against other ethnic minorities.

Their cruelty is unmatched. They are ripping families apart. They are forcibly separating children from parents. They forcibly separate husbands and wives. They send goons in to rape the wives whose husbands have been sent away, hoping that they can impregnate them with other ethnic children to sort of extinguish the Uighur population in this region. They are brainwashing children, and they have weaponized forced abortion and sterilization. They have systematically demolished mosques.

What is happening in Xinjiang is not gray; what is happening in Xinjiang is evil. Chairman Xi's underlings do not believe that the Uighurs are human,

and the racist Communist Party in Beijing believes that these men and women are little better than animals and that they can be exploited as slaves. In Xinjiang, cotton is king.

How does Beijing try to explain this away? Well, of course, there are a whole bunch of lies that they try to use to cover it up. According to their propaganda, the Uighurs and other ethnic minorities are lazy people, and they need help to overcome their laziness. They need to learn about work, and they need to be helped out of poverty. These are the sorts of topline versions of their disgusting lies. But they don't really think that anybody is persuaded by these lies. What they expect is that the money will do the persuading for them. They don't think that these lies are ruled out in a way that is going to really be compelling to anyone. What they really expect is that we won't pay attention to where high-quality, cheap cotton often comes from and that we will just look away.

And here is the painful truth: The global supply chains that have benefited from this blood cotton have gotten some really good cotton at really cheap prices. In 2019, an estimated 70 percent of Xinjiang's cotton was picked by hand, making it some of the highest quality cotton in the world and some of the most desirable cotton in any marketplace, and it is incredibly cheap because it is picked by slave labor. Xinjiang produces about 85 percent of China's cotton and about 20 percent of the world's cotton, and it is impossible to separate blood cotton from the small minority that is not picked in these slave fields.

Here is what it means in America and around the world: It means that we are living in a sea of hypocrisy because we have a whole bunch of U.S. companies that celebrate individuality, individualism, make some unbelievably good commercials and talk about the expansion of human potential, at the same time being cosponsors of slave fields. That is what we are talking about here. We can't and we shouldn't simply look away.

The extensiveness of the CCP's forced labor programs are such that many U.S. companies, including at least 82 identifiable global brands, have benefited from the Xinjiang slave cotton labor. Gap and Nike are two of the companies that are most obviously singled out, and the CCP has helped them cut their costs and expand their market access. In exchange, what they ask for is a really polite "see no evil" policy.

The commercials that are aired in prime time at major sporting events in the United States are aired by companies that at the same time say: Please don't ask us about our supply chains. We don't want to have to give any account for that.

These companies spend billions of dollars a year running ad campaigns touting values like self-determination. Yet they are quietly importing Com-

munist values, particularly about the lack of human dignity. We don't want those values imported into the United States. We don't want to look away. We don't want to be people who say "Never again and never forget" and then just casually say "I am never going to notice." We don't want to be those people.

Today, I have written letters to both Gap and Nike asking them to help—asking them to please help make transparent to the American people what they know about their supply chains and how we should clean them up. We need to tackle the problem of this blood cotton from Xinjiang, and we need to give the American public, the American consumer, a transparent look into what these supply chains look like, where they come from, and how much blood they are tainted with.

In the coming weeks, I and others will be reaching out to more companies than Gap and Nike, but those are the two letters I sent today. Americans in government and business and even Americans as we go to the store with our wallets as consumers in the retail marketplace—we need to be aware of what is happening. We need to be a people who believe in defending human rights.

The unjust status quo is very profitable, so many companies are now fighting this change. They are fighting this transparency. As attention in Congress has turned towards supply chain integrity concerns in recent months, companies have begun to deploy high-paid lobbyists on Capitol Hill. Americans who believe strongly in human rights and fundamental freedoms have been justifiably confused about these efforts to weaken legislation that seeks to ban imported goods that are made with Chinese Communist Party slave labor.

Businesses that claim a fundamental respect for human dignity ought to share with their consumers and with their shareholders how they ensure the integrity of their supply chains because, again, 20 percent of the world's cotton comes from this part of China, and 85 percent of that cotton looks like it is tainted by blood cotton.

Companies need to come clean if they have been asked by the CCP to stay silent about the human rights abuses in China. Companies need to reevaluate the costs and the benefits, and the costs are high of partnering with the genocidal regime. They need to do it themselves. These companies need to do it themselves because it is right, and they need to be pushed to do it because it is hard and because the competitive marketplace has many of their peer companies and competitor companies also benefiting from this same slave cotton.

The U.S. Congress has become increasingly concerned about the Chinese Communist Party's pay-to-play shake-down of American companies. There is currently a bill under consideration in this body that forces a long overdue review of supply chains, and there are

going to be many more bills and pieces of legislation like this coming. Companies, even if they don't want to do it for the right reason, should do it for the pragmatic reason of getting in front of this because this attention is not going to go away. The concern in this body and in this Congress about the blood in the slave supply chains in many of these industries is bipartisan.

The United States celebrates the ideals of universal human dignity. The Chinese Communist Party explicitly rejects these ideals. In this ideological competition, Beijing is working to exploit something—they are working to exploit the moral concessions of American CEOs. CEOs and boards, you need to do better. American consumers, you need to ask hard questions. And this Congress needs to do some serious investigating.

American and global companies that find their roots in these freedom-loving worlds and countries and that express public support for fundamental human freedoms that produce their success must act now. There is more to do than maximize the bottom line. That is not the only value. And the Senate is increasingly willing to act to ensure that American companies do not import misguided Chinese Communist Party values to these shores.

Right now, it is too easy, it is too comfortable, and it is too profitable for many American and global companies to simply ignore the evil. We need to make the suffering in Xinjiang known. We need to speak about the Uighurs. These men, women, and children have God-given dignity, and we should not look away.

Americans need to know about this evil so that we can, together, confront it. We need to dismantle Chairman Xi's lies, and we need to make it unconscionable for American businesses to profit from Chairman Xi's injustices.

Mr. President, the report from the Victims in Communism Memorial Foundation released last night about the blood slave labor in Xinjiang can be found on the foundation's website at: <https://victimsofcommunism.org/publication/coercive-labor-in-xinjiang/>.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator from Nebraska.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 875 and 881.

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

The clerk will report the nominations.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Julie D. Fisher, of Tennessee, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Belarus; and Jonathan Pratt, of

California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Djibouti.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. SASSE. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Fisher and Pratt nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SASSE. 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 PAT ROBERTS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President. Senator PAT ROBERTS has dedicated his life to serving the Nation and the people of his home State of Kansas, and I would like to take a moment to recognize his retirement.

During his 40 years of service in the U.S. Congress, Senator ROBERTS has become a leader on agriculture, rural health and education, and defense policy. Senator ROBERTS is the first Member of Congress to chair the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. Through his work on this committee and other, and across Congress, Senator ROBERTS has served with honor and distinction, keeping foremost in mind the interests and needs of Kansans.

PAT has been a true partner on the Agriculture Committee. His methodical approach to bipartisanship mirrors my own efforts when I served a chairman of that committee and worked with Senator Dick Lugar to write and advance farm bills, nutrition laws, and conservation policies. Under PAT's chairmanship, the committee was able to reach a compromise on the 2018 farm bill, allowing for the inclusion of several key policies to enhance rural development, support our farmers, and fund vital nutrition programs. I know from negotiating the 1990 farm bill as committee chairman that reaching a bipartisan and bicameral consensus on such a substantial and sweeping piece

of legislation is no simple task. PAT's leadership through the process showed his deep commitment to providing for the American people.

PAT and I have worked together, and we have traveled together. We often chuckle that there are two bald men named PAT serving in the Senate. While I will miss sharing that chuckle with my friend, I will miss more his partnership and unwavering commitment to advancing responsible policies and practices to support agricultural sectors across the country. PAT and his wife Franki have become friends. Marcelle and I wish them the very best.

TRIBUTE TO CORY GARDNER

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, CORY GARDNER may be one of the younger members of the Senate, but he has brought distinction and dedication to his work on behalf of Coloradans. His entire career has been anchored in legislative work, at the Federal and State levels, first as a Senate staffer and then in the Colorado House of Representatives, before his election to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In both the State legislature and in the House of Representatives, he focused primarily on energy and agriculture legislation. He brought these priorities with him to Senate in 2015, through his work on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and Commerce, Justice, and Science Committees. As a Senator, Senator GARDNER has often worked across the aisle to find common ground and deliver for the people of the United States. One recent example was the enactment of the bipartisan Great American Outdoors Act, which became law in August. This landmark bipartisan conservation legislation permanently funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund, supports and creates countless jobs in conservation and outdoor recreation, and protects our country's natural beauty. Through the negotiation and passage of this bill, Senator GARDNER was at the table, trying to reach consensus and bring about meaningful benefits for the American people. That is no easy task and one which is not undertaken often in the Senate these days.

Senator GARDNER will leave the Senate at the end of this Congress, but I know his dedication to public service will remain. Marcelle and I wish Senator GARDNER, his wife Alyson, and the rest of their family the very best in the next chapter of their lives.

TRIBUTE TO DOUG JONES

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as a nation, today we find ourselves contemplating the key tenets upon which our country was founded: the importance of truth and equality, the pursuit of justice, and the determination of what is right. DOUG JONES has pursued justice and has fought for equality and for what is right for his entire career.

DOUG is one of the most dedicated, thoughtful and decent public servants I have ever had the privilege to know and work with in my time in the Senate. He leaves the Senate having only furthered that record of public service.

DOUG brought with him to the Senate a passion for civil rights and for resolving prior injustices. As U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Alabama, he fought against entrenched racial injustice. He prosecuted the men responsible for the 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church; and indicted domestic terrorist Eric Rudolph. In the Senate, he continued the pursuit of justice as a vocal advocate for greater government transparency and authored legislation that has expanded access to criminal investigation records for civil rights cases, helping families and individuals to resolve injustices after decades of inaction.

I am certain that, even as he leaves the Senate, DOUG will continue to represent and to fight for what is right. His has been an important and uniquely qualified voice for justice voice in the Senate these last few years, and I will miss his sound judgment and thoughtful advocacy. I know his long record of public service will only continue. Marcelle and I wish DOUG and his wife Louise and their entire family all the best.

I have great respect for him. He is one of the most impressive Senators I have served with, and I am so proud of all he has accomplished.

TRIBUTE TO MARTHA MCSALLY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, although MARTHA MCSALLY only joined the Senate in 2019, she has spent decades serving the Nation and the people of the State of Arizona.

She served for decades as a fighter pilot in the U.S. Air Force, in service to our country and to keep Americans safe. Upon her retirement as colonel from the Air Force, she continued her career as a public servant by representing Arizona's Second Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives for 4 years before her appointment to the Senate.

In the Senate, as she did in the House, Senator MCSALLY has fought hard to support veterans and has worked to further the interests of Arizonans. Her sense of duty to her country and to her State allowed her to make important contributions to the Senate Armed Services and Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committees.

Senator MCSALLY has also been a "neighbor," with our offices both on same floor of the Russell Senate Building. I thank Senator MCSALLY for her service in the Senate, and I wish her the best in the next chapter of her life.

(At the request of Mr. THUNE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I was alerted that someone in my household had been in close contact with several people who have tested positive for Covid-19. In an effort to avoid potentially exposing the passengers and crew on my flight, and my staff and colleagues in the Senate, both myself the member of my household took a PCR test in Florida and are currently awaiting the results.●

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. 21-07 concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Italy for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$500 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. 21-07

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 Italy.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$10 million.

Other \$490 million.

Total \$500 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: The Government of Italy has requested to buy articles and services to support the integration of two (2) Airborne Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance, and Electronic Warfare (AISREW) mission systems onto two (2) Italian Ministry of Defense provided G550 aircraft consisting of:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Four (4) Multifunctional Information Distribution Systems—Joint Tactical Radio System (MIDS JTRS) (2 installed, 2 spares).

Three (3) Embedded/GPS/INS (EGI) with GPS Security Devices, Airborne (2 installed, 1 spare).

Four (4) RIO™ Communications Intelligence Systems (2 installed, 2 spares).

Non-MDE: Also included are Missile Warning Sensors, AN/ALE-47 Countermeasure Dispenser Sets (CMDS), MX-20HD Electro-Optical and Infra-Red systems, Osprey 50 AESA Radars, AISREW ISR equipment, Secure Communications equipment, Identification Friend or Foe Systems, aircraft modification and integration, ground systems for data processing and crew training, ground support equipment, publications and technical data, U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services, flight test and certification, and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (IT-D-BAA).

(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 15, 2020.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Italy—Gulfstream G550 Aircraft with Airborne Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance, and Electronic Warfare (AISREW) Mission Systems

The Government of Italy has requested to buy articles and services to support the integration of two (2) Airborne Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance, and Electronic Warfare (AISREW) mission systems onto two (2) Italian Ministry of Defense provided G550 aircraft consisting of: four (4) Multifunctional Information Distribution Systems—Joint Tactical Radio System (MIDS JTRS) (2 installed, 2 spares); three (3) Embedded/GPS/INS (EGI) with GPS security devices, airborne (2 installed, 1 spare); and four (4) RIO™ Communications Intelligence Systems (2 installed, 2 spares). Also included are Missile Warning Sensors, AN/ALE-47 Countermeasure Dispenser Sets (CMDS), MX-20HD Electro-Optical and InfraRed systems, Osprey 50 AESA Radars, AISREW ISR equipment, Secure Communications equipment, Identification Friend or Foe Systems, aircraft modification and integration, ground systems for data processing and crew training, ground support equipment, publications and technical data, US Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services, flight test and certification, and other related elements of logistical and program support. The total estimated program cost is \$500 million.

This proposed sale will support U.S. foreign policy and national security by helping to improve the security of a NATO ally, which is an important partner for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale supports and complements the ongoing efforts of Italy to modernize its airborne Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance, and Electronic Warfare capability and increases interoperability between the U.S. Air Force and the Italian Air Force (ITAF). Italy will have no difficulty absorbing these articles into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be L3Harris, Greenville, TX. There are no known offset

agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of up to six (6) additional U.S. contractor representatives to Italy for a duration of one (1) year to support equipment familiarization.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness resulting from this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21-07

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. Missile Warning Sensor (MWS) units are mounted on the aircraft exterior to provide omni-directional protection. The MWS warns of threat missile approach by detecting radiation associated with the rocket motor. The Infrared Missile Warning System (IRMWS) is a small, lightweight, passive, electro-optic, threat-warning device used to detect surface-to-air missiles fired at helicopters and low-flying fixed-wing aircraft and automatically provides counter-measures, as well as audio and visual warning messages to the aircrew.

2. Multifunctional Information Distribution System—Joint Tactical Radio System (MIDS JTRS) is an advanced Link-16 command, control, communications, and intelligence (C3I) system incorporating high capacity, jam-resistant, digital communication links for exchange of near real-time tactical information, including both data and voice, among air, ground, and sea elements.

3. The AN/ALE-47 Countermeasure Dispenser Set (CMDS) provides an integrated threat-adaptive, computer controlled capability for dispensing chaff, flares, and active radio frequency expendables. The system is internally mounted and may be operated as a standalone system or may be integrated with other on-board Electronic Warfare (EW) and avionics systems. The AN/ALE-47 uses threat data received over the aircraft interfaces to assess the threat situation and determine a response. Expendable routines tailored to the immediate aircraft and threat environment may be dispensed using one of four operational modes.

4. The Embedded GPS-INS (EGI) is a sensor that combines GPS and inertial sensor inputs to provide accurate location information for navigation and targeting, and can be loaded with crypto-variable keys.

5. Wescam MX-20HD is a gyro-stabilized, multi-spectral, multi-field of view Electro-Optical/Infrared (EO/IR) system. The systems provide surveillance laser illumination and laser designation through use of an externally mounted turret sensor unit and internally mounted master control. Sensor video imagery is displayed in the aircraft real time and may be recorded for subsequent ground analysis.

6. The Osprey family of surveillance radars provides second generation Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) surveillance capability as the primary sensor on airborne assets. The Osprey radars are at a high technology readiness level and are in production for fixed and rotary wing applications. This Osprey configuration employs a side-looking radar. Osprey radars provide a genuine multi-domain capability, with high performance sea surveillance, notably against difficult targets, land surveillance with wide swath, very high resolution ground mapping, small and low speed ground target indication, high performance air to air surveillance, tracking and intercept.

7. The AISREW mission systems, to include the RIO™ Communications Intelligence Systems, provide near-real-time information to tactical forces, combatant commanders and national-level authorities

across the spectrum of conflict. The mission system can forward gather information in a variety of formats via secured communications systems. Most hardware used in this system is generic and commercially available. However, if any of the specialized hardware or publications are lost, the information could provide insight into many critical U.S. capabilities. Information gained could be used to develop countermeasures as well as offensive and defensive counter-tactics.

8. The highest level of classification of information included in this potential sale is SECRET.

9. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

10. A determination has been made that Italy 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.

11. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to Italy.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I am pleased that we've finally agreed on language to enhance penalties for female genital mutilation, or FGM, a truly horrible practice. I thank my colleagues in the House who worked with me on this issue.

More than 200 million women and girls alive today in 30 countries in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and the United States have fallen victim to this monstrous practice. Researchers estimate more than 500,000 women and girls in the U.S. have experienced or are at risk of falling victim to FGM.

I introduced legislation on this subject earlier this year, and, although the final language adopted by the House in H.R. 6100 doesn't include the protections I championed in a legally precise manner, it will send a strong message that Congress condemns the violent and disgusting butchery of young girls and women in this country.

Federal law bans the practice of FGM. However, in 2018, a district judge in Michigan found unconstitutional under Commerce Clause grounds the Federal statute banning FGM. Rather than appeal, the Department of Justice's Solicitor General wrote a letter asking Congress to amend the law to address the constitutional problem. I ask unanimous consent that this letter be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

The bill I introduced in response to this request, S. 2017, the Federal Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act of 2019, fixes the constitutional defects by adding specific commerce clause-focused language to the current law. It is a straightforward change that would make the existing statute consistent with Supreme Court precedent.

The House version of my bill will go a long way in protecting women and girls from FGM, but I remain convinced Congress can and should go even further to prevent this barbarity. Because H.R. 6100 only criminalizes FGM

acts committed for nonmedical reasons, it creates a loophole in the form of a medical benefits defense. Criminal defendants could leverage this defense against their victims by claiming they performed FGM to prevent infections, inflammation, or sexually transmitted diseases, all common excuses in countries where FGM is widespread. Unlike the old law, the burden is now on the government to prove the act was not done for medical reasons. Previously, it was the defendant's burden to prove the act was not medically necessary, per 18 U.S.C. 116(b).

While medical issues are commonly contested in FGM cases, the addition of a new element for the government to prove as part of its case-in-chief makes it tougher to prosecute perpetrators.

Furthermore, section 5 of H.R. 6100 declares that the Michigan district court decision on interstate commerce is erroneous. That language squarely conflicts with the Solicitor General's letter to Congress, which asserts the exact opposite.

A fix-it law should make a defective law better, not introduce new problems or make it easier for defendants to escape accountability. I am disappointed that these concerns were not addressed early on in the legislative drafting process, but I am also optimistic that we will resolve them in a future Congress.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL,
Washington, DC, April 10, 2019.
Re *United States v. Jumana Nagarwala et al.*,
No. 17-cr-20274 (E.D. Mich. Nov. 20, 2018)

Hon. DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR FEINSTEIN: Consistent with 28 U.S.C. 530D, I write to call your attention to the above-referenced decision of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. A copy of the decision is attached.

This case is the first federal prosecution under 18 U.S.C. 116(a), which prohibits female genital mutilation (FGM). Section 116(a) makes it a criminal offense to "knowingly circumcise[], excise[], or infibulate[] the whole or any part of the labia majora or labia minora or clitoris of another person who has not attained the age of 18 years." Ibid. The district court dismissed the FGM charges, holding that Section 116(a) is beyond Congress's power. First, the court concluded that Section 116(a) is not necessary and proper to effectuate an international treaty under *Missouri v. Holland*, 252 U.S. 416 (1920). The court rejected the government's argument that the provision was rationally related to implementing the United States' obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), done, Dec. 19, 1966, 999 U.N.T.S. 171, 6 I.L.M. 368. Second, the court relied on *United States v. Lopez*, 514 U.S. 549 (1995), and *United States v. Morrison*, 529 U.S. 598 (2000), to hold that Section 116(a) was beyond Congress's power under the Commerce Clause. The court found that FGM was not an economic activity but was instead a form of physical assault, and that the statute adding Section 116(a) to the U.S. Code was unaccompanied by detailed, record-based findings from which a court could determine that FGM substantially affects interstate commerce. The court further

emphasized that, unlike many federal criminal statutes, Section 116(a) does not include any jurisdictional elements, such as a requirement that the charged offense have an explicit connection with, or effect on, interstate commerce.

Section 116(a) targets an especially heinous practice—permanently mutilating young girls—that should be universally condemned. FGM is a form of gender-based violence and child abuse that harms victims not only when they are girls, suffering the immediate trauma of the act, but also throughout their lives as women, when it often results in a range of physical and psychological harms. See Act of Sept. 30, 1996, Pub. L. 104-208, Div. C., Tit. VI, §644(a), 110 Stat. 3009-708 (18 U.S.C. 116 note). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that half a million women and girls in the United States have already suffered FGM or are at risk for being subjected to FGM in the future. See Howard Goldberg et al., Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting in the United States, 131 Public Health Reports 340 (2016). The Department therefore condemns this practice in the strongest possible terms.

That said, the Department has reluctantly determined that—particularly in light of the Supreme Court's decision in *Morrison*, which was decided after Section 116(a)'s enactment—it lacks a reasonable defense of the provision, as currently worded, and will not pursue an appeal of the district court's decision. Instead, we urge that Congress act forthwith to address the constitutional problem, by promptly enacting the attached legislative proposal, which, in our view, would clearly establish Congress's authority to criminalize FGM of minors and ensure that this practice is prohibited by federal law.

First, the Department has determined that it lacks an adequate argument that Section 116(a), as it is currently written, is necessary and proper to the regulation of interstate commerce. Pursuant to the Commerce Clause, Congress can regulate and protect the channels of interstate commerce, the instrumentalities of interstate commerce, and activities that "substantially affect interstate commerce." *Gonzales v. Raich*, 545 U.S. 1, 17 (2005). Unlike many federal criminal statutes, however, Section 116(a) does not require proof of any nexus between the conduct at issue (performing FGM on minors) and interstate commerce—the critical defect found by the Supreme Court in *Morrison* and *Lopez*. Furthermore, although FGM can be performed in circumstances with commercial characteristics, FGM itself does not appear to be inherently an economic activity, and when performed purely locally, FGM does not appear to be "part of an economic 'class of activities' that have a substantial effect on interstate commerce." Ibid.

Second, the Department has determined that it does not have an adequate argument that Section 116(a) is within Congress's authority to enact legislation to implement the ICCPR, which does not address FGM. None of the ICCPR's provisions references FGM at all. Nor do they provide a basis for the federal government itself (rather than the individual States) to criminalize FGM of minors by private parties. This case is therefore not analogous to *Holland*, which involved a treaty that more directly addressed the parties' obligation to protect certain migratory birds and to propose legislation to do so. See 252 U.S. at 431. Thus, even maintaining the full continuing validity of *Holland*, the Department does not believe it can defend Section 116(a) on this ground.

Although the Department has determined not to appeal the district court's decision, it recognizes the severity of the charged conduct, its lifelong impact on victims, and the importance of a federal prohibition on FGM committed on minors. Accordingly, the Department urges Congress to amend Section 116(a) to address the constitutional issue that formed the basis of the district court's opinion in this case. Specifically, concurrently with submitting this letter, the Department is submitting to Congress a legislative proposal that would amend Section 116(a) to provide that FGM is a federal crime when (1) the defendant or victim travels in or uses a channel or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce in furtherance of the FGM; (2) the defendant uses a means, channel, facility, or instrumentality of interstate commerce in connection with the FGM; (3) a payment is made in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce in furtherance of the FGM; (4) an offer or other communication is made in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce in furtherance of the FGM; (5) the conduct occurs within the United States' special maritime and territorial jurisdiction, or within the District of Columbia or a U.S. territory; or (6) the FGM otherwise occurs in or affects interstate or foreign commerce. In our view, adding these provisions would ensure that, in every prosecution under the statute, there is a nexus to interstate commerce.

Please let me know if we can be of further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

NOEL J. FRANCISCO,
Solicitor General.

RECOGNIZING THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE 389TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, the U.S. Air Force's 389th Fighter Squadron—known, respected, and feared around the globe as the Thunderbolts—flew downrange from the 366th Fighter Wing at Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho to support Operations Inherent Resolve and Spartan Shield from October 2019 until June 2020. Led by Lt. Col. Rod “Brick” James, the squadron of F-15E Strike Eagles deployed to the United States Central Command area of responsibility for the fight against the Islamic State.

During its historic combat deployment, the T-Bolts employed 263 munitions of myriad types during over 2,600 sorties and a record 13,000 combat hours throughout CENTCOM. Demonstrating the rapid, agile, and lethal characteristics of airpower, the 389th executed close air support for troops in Syria and Iraq. In addition to CAS, the Squadron Weapons section loaded the first Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile, AGM-158, expended in combat by the 366th Fighter Wing, for just one of a host of special missions. All the while a deterrent, the T-Bolts stood ready to defeat Iranian aggression if the call came. Finally, they stayed in the fight 50 percent longer than planned to ensure COVID-19 did not cause any loss of support to those who needed Strike Eagles overhead.

Throughout their deployment, the men and women of the 389th Fighter Squadron and Aircraft Maintenance

Unit performed exceptionally under intense combat pressures executing a new, highly mobile deployment construct during a pandemic. The Thunderbolts represent the best America has to offer. They ride hard, shoot straight, and always speak the truth. I join all grateful Americans in congratulating this outstanding team on a job well done. Banzai.

TRIBUTE TO MARK LEDUC

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise to honor a member of my staff, Mark LeDuc, who will soon retire after decades of distinguished service. Mark exemplifies the ideal public servant, demonstrating integrity, thoroughness, a spirit of inquiry, and hard work in every undertaking. Above all, Mark has always demonstrated his belief that it is an honor to serve the people of Maine and our Nation.

Mark was born in New Jersey, but his father's final tour of duty in the U.S. Navy brought the family to Maine, where they were finally home. I first met Mark in 1986 at a campaign event for then-Representative John McKernan, who was running for Governor of the State of Maine. He had recently graduated from a joint degree program at Columbia Law School and the School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University. He had just moved back to Maine with his wife Marie, whom he had met while they were both studying at Princeton.

Mark and I both went on to work in the Governor McKernan's administration. Mark served as head of the Governor's legislative staff, and I was commissioner of professional and financial regulation in his cabinet. At the time, Maine's workers compensation market was in the midst of a crisis, leading to a 17-day State government shutdown. Mark and I worked closely together on the reform legislation that ended the shutdown and successfully resolved the crisis.

Mark held other roles in State government, but it was during his service in the Governor's office that I first saw and came to appreciate his ability to master complex issues and his dedication to public service.

Mark joined my Senate staff in 2003. He has served in various roles since that time, first in my personal office, then on my Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee staff, and now as chief counsel on my Aging Committee staff. Through the years, Mark has advised me with expertise and thoroughness on a wide range of issues. He served as my lead economic staffer on such legislation as the 2003 tax cuts, the 2008 Troubled Asset Relief Program, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Dodd-Frank financial regulatory reform legislation, and the Collins capital standards amendment. He also advised me on the economics of the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and later put his knowledge of State insurance

regulation to work when he helped me to draft the Lower Premiums Through Reinsurance Act.

Mark's most significant professional accomplishment may very well be the Paycheck Protection Program that he helped me craft earlier this year. During the devastating COVID-19 pandemic, this program has helped to sustain more than 50 million American jobs, including more than 250,000 jobs in the State of Maine, and I so appreciate the great knowledge and untiring energy he put into this crucial project. It was important, and it helped real people—the small business owners and their employees who are the backbone of communities across our Nation.

Mark has achieved great professional success, but what he is most proud of is his family. Mark and Marie have three daughters: Miriam-Rose, Julie, and Karen. While I am delighted for him that in his retirement he will have more time to spend with the family he loves so dearly, his absence as a member of my staff will be deeply felt.

Mark is a true public servant. He performs his work not for accolades but for a belief in helping people and doing what right. I wish him and his family all the best as they embark on this next chapter.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE GREAT PLAINS FOOD BANK

• Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, this has been a challenging year for millions of Americans impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many organizations have stepped up to assist with delivering food, and I want to recognize one North Dakota organization that continues to expand its services to partner with other local organizations reaching out to those in need.

The Great Plains Food Bank has served communities in North Dakota since 1983, regularly dispatching trucks to all 53 counties across the State. With USDA estimates that 27 percent of all food produced in the United States never makes it to the dinner table, the Great Plains Food Bank's mission is to get this surplus food from those who have it to those who need it. It has joined forces with hundreds of food industry partners to recover their surplus shelf-stable and perishable food products. These include local, regional and national growers, processors, manufacturers, retailers, Federal and State government food programs, food drives, and Feeding America, the Nation's food bank network.

The Great Plains Food Bank took a significant step forward last month when it opened a second distribution center, this one in Bismarck, to better facilitate the delivery of food across western and central North Dakota, serving 100 soup kitchens, food pantries, and shelters. This new warehouse now has room for freezers and refrigerators, office space and facilities for volunteers.

Opening the Bismarck distribution center is one of the goals of the food bank's "Feed the Future" campaign, which has been raising funds since 2015 and is also hoping to expand the Fargo headquarters and increase the total of meals it serves next year. This very timely expansion of food services across the State comes when more and more people are depending on these deliveries to feed themselves and their families.

These services are possible because of a committed network of staff, volunteers, and corporate sponsors and partners, who provide the funds and work-force to continue the distribution every week throughout the year.

In this holiday season during the end of a very difficult year, I congratulate the Great Plains Food Bank on its vision and ongoing success in delivering food across the State. On behalf of all North Dakotans, I thank all who work for and with the Great Plains Food Bank for their commitment to this cause. I wish them continued success and community support for years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO PAUL J. WILDE

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Bonneville County Sheriff Paul Wilde and his more than 40 years of service to his community.

Sheriff Wilde began his career in law enforcement following the Teton Dam disaster in 1976 as a reserve deputy in Jefferson County. Within a year, he transferred to Bonneville County where he would remain for the next four decades.

Community service is deeply engrained in Sheriff Wilde. Throughout his time as a deputy in the Bonneville County sheriff's office, he also served on several boards and committees, including as a founding board member of D.A.R.E., president of the 7th Judicial Court Appointed Special Advocates, and on the governing boards of Help, Inc., Domestic Violence Intervention, and Rape Crisis. In addition, he holds an Executive Certification from the Police Officers Standards a Training Academy and currently chairs the Jail Standards Committee for the Idaho Sheriffs Association.

Through these opportunities, he learned that effective law enforcement requires a firm and daily commitment to community and personal sacrifice. Over the course of his career, Sheriff Wilde clearly demonstrated this commitment. His colleagues were not the only people to recognize these qualities in Sheriff Wilde but also the residents of Bonneville County, who elected him to three consecutive terms as their sheriff.

Sheriff Wilde leaves behind a legacy demonstrating the benefits of capable law enforcement, and we wish him and his wife Cindy the best as he transitions back to private life. His leadership and commitment to his community will be missed, but his legacy will

benefit Eastern Idaho for years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO WARREN AND JANE ALLEN

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Warren and Jane Allen of Spofford, NH. The couple served our country with distinction during World War II, and the life they built together is emblematic of the many who came home from war, raised a family, and helped to build the America we know today.

Warren, or "Bill" as he is known to close friends, was born on March 14, 1923, in Calhoun, GA. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1942. When asked years later why he decided to enlist, he replied that he saw a movie about the Marines and liked the look of their dress blues. His service brought him across the country, from boot camp at Parris Island in South Carolina to "tower school" in Fort Worth, TX, and eventually to a posting at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point in Havelock, NC. An air traffic controller, Bill remembers having to stand on orange crates to direct aircraft traffic at MCAS Cherry Point. The control tower had not been built yet.

Jane Post was born on April 26, 1923, in Spofford, NH. She enlisted in the recently formed U.S. Marine Corps Women Reserves in June of 1943. She trained at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina and attended control tower school in Atlanta, GA. Following her training, she arrived at MCAS Cherry Point and was assigned to the air station's clearance center. It was her responsibility to keep track of all arriving and departing aircraft at the station. It was at Cherry Point that Jane's path crossed Bill's in 1943.

By November of that year, Bill had risen to a supervisor position at air station. One day, a plane carrying a U.S. Marine Corps general was descending and given clearance to land. Suddenly, a fighter pilot radioed that his plane was losing air pressure and requested permission for an emergency landing. The control tower instructed the fighter pilot to circle the air station and allow the general's plane to land first. Upon hearing this, Bill sprinted up the stairs of the control tower and demanded to know who gave those instructions. It was Jane Post.

Though he disagreed with her judgment on which plane should have landed first that day, Bill struck up a relationship with that control tower operator. They were married 5 months later on April 20, 1944, and have been inseparable ever since.

Bill continued to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps until 1946. He reenlisted in 1947 and kept his rank of technical sergeant. In 1952, he was honorably discharged from the Reserves. Jane served in the Women Reserves until January 12, 1945. She was honorably discharged upon the news that she and Bill were expecting their first child.

The Allens eventually settled in Spofford, NH, a small community in the western part of the State. Bill went on to work at a number of local banks after a short stint as the owner of the local Tuttle's Store. He retired as president of the Savings Bank of Walpole in 1993. As their children grew up, Jane returned to school and obtained a bachelor's degree in home economics from nearby Keene State College.

They also applied the leadership qualities that they refined in the Marine Corps to a variety of community endeavors. Bill served as town moderator and a longtime member of the local budget committee. He was also a captain at the Spofford Volunteer Fire Department. Jane worked to establish the Chesterfield Historical Society and was a driving force in raising funds for a new library in town. Bill and Jane were both fixtures at Keene State College basketball games, Bill as an official scorekeeper and Jane as a dedicated fan.

Last year, they celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary among family and the many friends they have made in their journey from Cherry Point to the Granite State.

On behalf of the people of New Hampshire, I ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me in thanking Bill and Jane Allen for their service in World War II and the many contributions they have made to their community in the years since. We wish them all the best in the years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN ANFINSON

● Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a great advocate for the Mississippi River. After a distinguished career of public service at the Army Corps of Engineers and the National Park Service, Dr. John Anfinson will retire at the end of this month from his position as superintendent of Minnesota's Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

During my time as a board member for Friends of the Mississippi River, I saw firsthand Dr. Anfinson's tireless commitment to the river ecosystem. John has delighted in introducing people to the mighty Mississippi as it flows through the twin cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul and sharing stories about the historic, economic, and cultural significance of America's great river.

In each of his roles, from historian for the Saint Paul District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to chief of resource management and superintendent of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area of the National Park Service, Dr. Anfinson has shared his love for the Mississippi with countless people in the Twin Cities and beyond.

Dr. Anfinson has been a leader in protecting the river ecosystem from invasive species and has been instrumental in saving and repurposing the Fort Snelling Upper Post buildings,

which will soon come back to life as a new community, housing families and individuals. He and his work remind us of the cultural, commercial, and ecological importance of the river. It is fundamental to our very identities as Minnesotans.

Through his work, Dr. Anfinson has educated countless Minnesotans about the unique cultural heritage of the Mississippi, and he has inspired the public to appreciate and take advantage of the treasures the river offers to our State and country. He has contributed to our understanding of the history of the river through his books, "River of History" and "The River We Have Wrought." His impact will be felt as generations and generations of Americans have the opportunity to learn about the Mississippi enjoy all that it has to offer.

As our climate changes and our State changes in countless other ways, it is vital that we prioritize good stewardship of the river. That means cleaning the waters. That means maintaining our river communities and the infrastructure—natural and manmade—necessary to protect them from flooding. We will be challenged to constantly envision, plan, and take action to make sure we have a Mississippi River worthy of the legacy we want to pass on to the next generation of Minnesotans. Dr. Anfinson and his work will continue to guide us for years to come.

It is an honor to offer my sincerest congratulations to Dr. Anfinson on his retirement. Minnesota thanks him for his countless contributions to the environment and our treasured Mississippi River.●

TRIBUTE TO CATHY HUGHES

● Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a tenacious entrepreneur, visionary radio personality, and powerful advocate for the African-American community, Cathy Hughes. This year, her pioneering radio company, Urban One, celebrated 40 years on the air. Cathy Hughes has left an indelible mark on the State of Maryland and inspired millions of listeners across the country.

This titan of the airwaves began her extraordinary career in Omaha, NE, where she worked for a local radio station, KOWH. But it was when she moved to Washington, DC, in 1971 to pursue a job at the Howard University School of Communications that her career took off. While working at Howard, she got involved in the university's radio program as a station manager. In her first year on the job, she increased the station's revenue twelvefold.

Cathy Hughes has always aimed high, and when she learned that the local DC radio station WOL was up for sale, she seized the opportunity. After being denied a loan 32 times, she finally received the bank financing she needed. So she purchased WOL, founded her own media company, Radio One, and

quickly soared to new heights. Cathy Hughes revolutionized radio by rebuilding WOL from the ground up, literally, and brought on grassroots volunteers from the neighborhood to develop her station's headquarters on H Street and 4th Northeast, just a short walk from the U.S. Capitol. Her innovative broadcasts captured the attention of the African-American community and attracted a wide audience of devoted listeners.

Although she got her start in Washington, DC, Cathy Hughes has become a champion for Maryland. When her company first expanded out of Washington, its first stop was Baltimore. And her flagship venture, which was renamed Urban One in 2017, is now headquartered in Silver Spring. She has cultivated strong roots in Anne Arundel County and has been living in Pasadena for 20 years. Today, Urban One's broadcasts reach households across Maryland and provide a platform for honest conversation on the issues that matter to our State. Cathy Hughes has given back time and time again to the communities that raised her up by hiring locally and employing countless Marylanders. That tradition of uplifting others has remained a hallmark of her career. Her company, which now houses two new multimedia ventures, CLEO TV and TV One, both stationed in Maryland, has created 1,500 jobs.

In the 40 years since purchasing WOL, Cathy Hughes has never stopped overcoming barriers. In 1999, she became the first African-American woman to chair the board of a publicly held corporation. She headed the first African-American-run company to succeed in multiple radio markets simultaneously. Cathy Hughes made history again as the first woman to own a radio station ranked No. 1. Her trailblazing multimedia enterprise now reaches 82 percent of the African-American community and has cultivated a devoted weekly following of 15 million listeners.

Speaking of Cathy Hughes' inspiring career, Reverend Al Sharpton said, "She took the 'mute' button off of Black America." Her legacy has been defined by a commitment to speaking up for those who have long been silent in the radio arena. While she has already lived a storied life and achieved enormous success, Cathy Hughes hasn't slowed down. Her recent efforts to highlight local Black businesses struggling to weather the storm of this pandemic speaks to the depth of her lifelong passion for shining the spotlight on others. While her name has already been inscribed on the aptly renamed Cathy Hughes School for Communications at Howard University where she once worked, her story is still being written.●

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with

accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-6107. A communication from the Counsel for Regulations and Legislation, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Housing Counseling Program: Revision of the Certification Timeline" (RIN2502-ZA34) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 10, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6108. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the International Criminal Court that was declared in Executive Order 13928 of June 11, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6109. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Belarus that was declared in Executive Order 13405 of June 16, 2006; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6110. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes to Certain Alcohol-Related Regulations Governing Bond Requirements and Tax Return Filing Periods" (RIN1513-AC30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 10, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6111. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2021-02, Technical Amendments" (FAC 2021-02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 11, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6112. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2021-02, Small Entity Compliance Guide" (FAC 2021-02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 11, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6113. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2019-002, Recreational Services on Federal Lands" (RIN9000-AN85) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 11, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6114. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2018-023, Taxes-Foreign Contracts in Afghanistan" (RIN9000-AN81) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 11, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6115. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2020-006, Documentation of Market Research" (RIN9000-AO09) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December

11, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6116. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2018-021, Reserve Officer Training Corps and Military Recruiting on Campus" (RIN9000-AN79) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 11, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6117. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2019-019, Update to Excess Personal Property Procedures" (RIN9000-AO02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 11, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6118. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2020-002, Removal of Obsolete Definitions" (RIN9000-AO05) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 11, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6119. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2020-003, Removal of FAR Appendix" (RIN9000-AO06) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 11, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6120. A communication from the Senior Counsel, Office of the Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Monetary Penalties Inflation Adjustment" (Docket No. OAG 168) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 10, 2020; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-6121. A communication from the Agency Representative, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "PTAB Rules of Practice for Instituting on All Challenged Patent Claims and All Grounds and Eliminating the Presumption at Institution Favoring Petitioner as to Testimonial Evidence" (RIN0651-AD40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 10, 2020; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-6122. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of the Tehachapi Mountains Viticultural Area" (RIN1513-AC69) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 10, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6123. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of the Candy Mountain Viticultural Area" (RIN1513-AC42) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 10, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6124. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establish-

ment of the Royal Slope Viticultural Area" (RIN1513-AC52) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 10, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6125. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of the Tualatin Hills and Laurelwood District Viticultural Area" (RIN1513-AC52) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 10, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6126. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Television Broadcasting Services; Mesa, Arizona" (MB Docket No. 20-331) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 10, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6127. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Television Broadcasting Services; Portland, Oregon" (MB Docket No. 20-334) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 10, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6128. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Television Broadcasting Services; Minneapolis, Minnesota" (MB Docket No. 20-340) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 10, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6129. A communication from the Program Analyst, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Protecting Consumers from One-Ring Scams, Report and Order" ((CG Docket No. 20-93) (FCC 20-171)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 10, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HOEVEN, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment:

S. 2716. A bill to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-324).

By Mr. ENZI, from the Committee on the Budget:

Report to accompany S. 2765, A bill to improve Federal fiscal controls and the congressional budget process (Rept. No. 116-325).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2757. A bill to waive the imposition of a civil fine for certain first-time paperwork violations by small business concerns (Rept. No. 116-326).

By Mr. WICKER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1730. A bill to direct the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to make grants to State and local governments and nongovernmental organizations for purposes of carrying out climate-resilient living shoreline projects that

protect coastal communities by supporting ecosystem functions and habitats with the use of natural materials and systems, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-327).

S. 2979. A bill to improve drug testing for transportation-related activities (Rept. No. 116-328).

S. 3303. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to promote transportation career opportunities and improve diversity in the workforce (Rept. No. 116-329).

S. 3734. A bill to provide for a coordinated Federal research initiative to ensure continued United States leadership in engineering biology (Rept. No. 116-330).

By Mr. WICKER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment:

S. 3958. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to permit the use of incentive payments to expedite certain federally financed airport development projects (Rept. No. 116-331).

By Mr. WICKER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 4286. A bill to authorize appropriations for offsetting the costs related to reductions in research productivity resulting from the coronavirus pandemic (Rept. No. 116-332).

S. 1166. A bill to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to make grants for the establishment or expansion of internet exchange facilities, and for other purposes.

By Mr. WICKER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with amendments:

S. 1341. A bill to adopt a certain California flammability standard as a Federal flammability standard to protect against the risk of upholstered furniture flammability, and for other purposes.

By Mr. WICKER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1858. A bill to ensure the Chief Information Office of the Consumer Product Safety Commission has a significant role in decisions related to information technology, and for other purposes.

By Mr. WICKER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment:

S. 2535. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to conduct an assessment and analysis relating to the decline in the business formation rate in the United States.

By Mr. WICKER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 4159. A bill to amend the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act to accommodate emerging technologies.

S. 4472. A bill to amend the Secure and Trusted Communications Network Reimbursement Program to include eligible telecommunications carriers and providers of educational broadband service, and for other purposes.

S. 4719. A bill to provide, temporarily, authority for the Secretary of Commerce to waive cost sharing requirements for the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and for other purposes.

By Mr. WICKER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with amendments:

S. 4884. A bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to study the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on injuries and deaths associated with consumer products, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF
COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. INHOFE for the Committee on Armed Services.

Air Force nomination of Col. Sean K. Tyler, to be Brigadier General.

Army nomination of Col. Charles R. Parker, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Marlon E. Crook, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Donald R. Bevis, Jr., to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Col. John M. Week, to be Brigadier General.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. George N. Appenzeller, to be Major General.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. (1h) Richard D. Heinz, to be Rear Admiral.

Navy nomination of Capt. Wesley R. McCall, to be Rear Admiral (lower half).

Navy nomination of Capt. Kevin P. Lenox, to be Rear Admiral (lower half).

Army nomination of Lt. Gen. Charles A. Flynn, to be General.

Army nomination of Lt. Gen. Bryan P. Fenton, to be Lieutenant General.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

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

Air Force nomination of Tanya R. Harrison, to be Colonel.

Air Force nominations beginning with Ryan K. Ayers and ending with Joseph Grady Wright, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 30, 2020.

Air Force nominations beginning with Terese L. Allison and ending with Jonathan R. Wurzelbacher, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 30, 2020.

Air Force nominations beginning with Martin R. Booth and ending with Jeromy James Wells, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 30, 2020.

Air Force nominations beginning with Kim L. Bowen and ending with Steven R. Richardson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 30, 2020.

Air Force nominations beginning with Michael A. Blowers and ending with Jeffrey L. Wisneski, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 30, 2020.

Army nomination of John C. Downing, Jr., to be Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Krista L. Bartolomucci and ending with Abraham L. Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 30, 2020.

Army nominations beginning with Anne K. Brophy and ending with Julian R. Nierva, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 30, 2020.

Army nominations beginning with James P. Arguelles and ending with Robert E. Webb, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 30, 2020.

Army nominations beginning with Jesse T. Adkinson and ending with D015805, which

nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 30, 2020.

Army nomination of Kip R. Thompson, to be Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Michael D. Armstrong and ending with Lawrence G. Wedekind, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 30, 2020.

Army nominations beginning with Brian R. Abraham and ending with Eric C. Wieland, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 30, 2020.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Daniel R. Abney and ending with Andres F. Zuniga, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 30, 2020.

Navy nominations beginning with Joline A. Mancini and ending with Samuel D. Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 30, 2020.

Navy nomination of Laura K. Cargill, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Tyler E. Maness, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Space Force nominations beginning with Tyler N. Hague and ending with John M. Kennedy, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 30, 2020.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND
JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BENNET:

S. 5015. A bill to establish an Outdoor Restoration Fund for restoration and resilience projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 5016. A bill to combat forced organ harvesting and trafficking in persons for purposes of the removal of organs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 5017. A bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to modify the definition of hemp, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 5018. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a grant program supporting trauma center violence intervention and violence prevention programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 5019. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to limit the charitable deduction for certain qualified conservation contributions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRAHAM:

S. 5020. A bill to repeal section 230 of the Communications Act of 1934; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 5021. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to make amendments to the E-rate program of the Commis-

sion, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 5022. A bill to establish a Federal standard in order to improve the Nation's resilience to current and future flood risk; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Ms. WARREN):

S. 5023. A bill to suspend and reform the authority under the Higher Education Act of 1965 for the Secretary of Education to carry out an administrative wage garnishment program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND
SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BLUNT:

S. Res. 801. A resolution authorizing the use of the atrium in the Philip A. Hart Senate Office Building for a piano performance by Senator Lamar Alexander; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. INHOFE):

S. Res. 802. A resolution commending the United States African Development Foundation on the occasion of its 40th anniversary for creating pathways to prosperity for underserved communities on the African continent through community-led development; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 238

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 238, a bill to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to monitor and combat anti-Semitism globally, and for other purposes.

S. 860

At the request of Mr. BENNET, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 860, a bill to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to modify the terms of the Jackson Gulch rehabilitation project in Colorado, and for other purposes.

S. 959

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 959, a bill to establish in the Smithsonian Institution a comprehensive women's history museum, and for other purposes.

S. 1267

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1267, a bill to establish within the Smithsonian Institution the National Museum of the American Latino, and for other purposes.

S. 2390

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2390, a bill to prohibit the imposition of the death penalty for any

violation of Federal law, and for other purposes.

S. 2907

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2907, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage of medical nutrition therapy services for individuals with eating disorders under the Medicare program.

S. 3072

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3072, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to prohibit the approval of new abortion drugs, to prohibit investigational use exemptions for abortion drugs, and to impose additional regulatory requirements with respect to previously approved abortion drugs, and for other purposes.

S. 3612

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor 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. 3898

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3898, a bill to provide flexibility for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in caring for homeless veterans during a covered public health emergency, and for other purposes.

S. 4150

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4150, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to provide assistance to certain providers of transportation services affected by the novel coronavirus.

S. 4258

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4258, a bill to establish a grant program for small live venue operators and talent representatives.

S. 4382

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4382, a bill to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to replace the bust of Roger Brooke Taney in the Old Supreme Court Chamber of the Capitol with a bust of Thurgood Marshall to be obtained by the Joint Committee on the Library and to remove certain statues from areas of the Capitol which are accessible to the public, to remove all statues of individuals who voluntarily served the Confederate States of America from display in the Capitol, and for other purposes.

S. 4494

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) 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. 4642

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4642, a bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to ensure sufficient bonding and complete and timely reclamation of land and water disturbed by Federal and Indian oil and gas production, and for other purposes.

S. 4663

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4663, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to save Federal funds by authorizing changes to the composition of circulating coins, and for other purposes.

S. 4711

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4711, a bill to provide for judicial security and privacy.

S. 4715

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) were added as cosponsors of S. 4715, a bill to grant Federal charter to the National American Indian Veterans, Incorporated.

S. 4757

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4757, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to establish additional requirements for dealers, and for other purposes.

S. 4994

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4994, a bill to provide civil relief for victims of the disclosure of certain intimate images, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 754

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 754, a resolution requesting information on the Government of Azerbaijan's human rights practices pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

S. RES. 755

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 755, a resolution requesting information on the Government of Turkey's human rights practices pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

S. RES. 790

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 790, a resolution supporting efforts to strengthen protection, assistance, and solutions for Venezuelan women and children.

S. RES. 794

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 794, a resolution urging the European Parliament to exempt certain technologies used to detect child sexual exploitation from European Union ePrivacy directive.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS ON DECEMBER 14, 2020

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 52—TO CORRECT THE ENROLLMENT OF S. 3312

Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 52

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That in the enrollment of S. 3312, an Act to establish a crisis stabilization and community reentry grant program, and for other purposes, the Secretary of the Senate shall—

(1) in section 3051(a) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by section 2 of the Act, strike “, for use by State and local correctional facilities,” and insert “, Indian Tribes, units of local government, and community-based nonprofit organizations”;

(2) in section 3051(b)(1)(B) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by section 2 of the Act, strike “offenders” and insert “individuals”;

(3) in the section heading for section 3052 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by section 2 of the Act, strike “STATE”;

(4) in section 3052(a) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by section 2 of the Act, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), strike “, or such agency as the chief executive may designate,” and insert “, Indian Tribe, unit of local government, or community-based nonprofit organization”;

(5) in section 3052(a)(3) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by section 2 of the Act, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), after “State” insert “, Tribal, or local”;

(6) in section 3052(b)(1) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by section 2 of the Act—

(A) after “State” insert “, Indian Tribe, unit of local government, or community-based nonprofit organization”; and

(B) after “facility” insert “and adopt policies that focus on programming, strategies, and educational components for reducing recidivism and probation violations”;

(7) in the section heading for section 3053 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by section 2 of the Act, strike “STATE”; and

(8) in section 3054 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by section 2 of the Act, after “State” insert “, Indian Tribe, unit of local

government, or community-based nonprofit organization”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 801—AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE ATRIUM IN THE PHILIP A. HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING FOR A PIANO PERFORMANCE BY SENATOR LAMAR ALEXANDER

Mr. BLUNT submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 801

Resolved, That the atrium in the Philip A. Hart Senate Office Building is authorized to be used from 3:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. on one day during December 14, 2020 through December 18, 2020, for a piano performance by Senator Lamar Alexander.

SENATE RESOLUTION 802—COMMENDING THE UNITED STATES AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY FOR CREATING PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY FOR UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT THROUGH COMMUNITY-LED DEVELOPMENT

Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 802

Whereas December 16, 2020, marks the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the United States African Development Foundation (referred to in this preamble as the “USADF”);

Whereas, on December 16, 1980 the President signed the African Development Foundation Act (22 U.S.C. 290h et seq.) into law, which established the USADF as an independent Federal agency with the goal to—

(1) strengthen the bonds of friendship and understanding between the people of the countries of Africa and the United States;

(2) support local capacity building to create community development opportunities and expand the participation of the countries of Africa in their development process; and

(3) foster the establishment and growth of indigenous development institutions that are equipped to respond to local needs;

Whereas, for 40 years, the USADF has invested in a pan-African network of local implementing partners that employ a community-led development approach to support African-designed and African-delivered solutions;

Whereas the USADF has provided more than 3,400 grassroots and community enterprise grants in more than 40 sub-Saharan African countries;

Whereas the USADF strengthens food security, empowers smallholder farmers, and creates economic growth in rural, hard-to-reach communities by investing primarily in agricultural enterprises to increase access to larger markets for those rural communities and enhance the business management skills, production, distribution, and marketing capabilities of those rural communities;

Whereas the USADF has maintained a strong emphasis on women and women entrepreneurs, and women represent up to 65 per-

cent of the direct beneficiaries of grants from the USADF;

Whereas, on February 20, 2020, the USADF partnered with the Academy for Entrepreneurs of the Department of State under the Women’s Global Development and Prosperity Initiative to provide seed funding to graduates of the Academy for Entrepreneurs to advance the global economic empowerment of women;

Whereas the USADF prioritizes partnerships with youth and supports nearly 300 social enterprises of Young African Leaders Initiative fellows and alumni of that initiative in 37 sub-Saharan African countries by providing seed capital, technical assistance, and skills training to help young entrepreneurs create businesses that generate new jobs and incomes for thousands of young Africans;

Whereas the work of the USADF in the off-grid energy sector, which is authorized under the Electrify Africa Act of 2015 (22 U.S.C. 2293 note), has helped bring renewable energy solutions to communities with limited or no connections to national power grids and improve energy access for nearly 370,000 individuals in 15 sub-Saharan African countries;

Whereas the USADF’s model of using 100 percent African staff and implementing partners on the African continent gives the USADF the ability to work in fragile and conflict-affected areas in the Great Lakes, Horn, and Sahel regions of Africa;

Whereas the small size of the USADF and the use of local implementing partners by the USADF has allowed the USADF to be ranked as one of the most efficient providers of foreign aid by the Center for Global Development;

Whereas the partnerships of the USADF with agencies of the Federal Government, including the Department of State, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and the United States Agency for International Development, along with the alignment of the USADF with the priorities of Congress, have allowed the USADF to extend the reach of critical development initiatives of the United States, such as initiatives authorized by the Global Food Security Act of 2016 (22 U.S.C. 9301 et seq.), the Electrify Africa Act of 2015 (22 U.S.C. 2293 note), and the African Growth and Opportunity Act and Millennium Challenge Act Modernization Act (Public Law 115-167; 132 Stat. 1276);

Whereas the partnerships between the USADF and private sector corporations and foundations, as well as African national and sub-national governments, have allowed the USADF to extend its reach and development impact in addressing food insecurity, insufficient access to energy, and unemployment through youth and women entrepreneurship and job skills training and placement in Africa, while leveraging funding to help the dollars of taxpayers in the United States go further; and

Whereas investments made by the USADF have developed and strengthened an extensive network of grassroots enterprises and social enterprises that are positively disposed to the United States and are better positioned to partner with other Federal agencies and public and private funders: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the United States African Development Foundation on the occasion of its 40th anniversary for creating pathways to prosperity for underserved communities on the African continent through community-led development;

(2) recognizes that, by supporting African-led development that grows community enterprises, the United States African Development Foundation empowers individuals who are who are least served by existing markets

or assistance programs to become a part of the growth story of Africa;

(3) recognizes that the United States African Development Foundation advances the foreign policy of the Federal Government and contributes directly to the national interests of the United States; and

(4) commits to continue to support the vital work of the United States African Development Foundation as an independent agency.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2708. Mr. SASSE (for Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2032, to expand research on the cannabidiol and marihuana.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2708. Mr. SASSE (for Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2032, to expand research on the cannabidiol and marihuana; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Cannabidiol and Marihuana Research Expansion Act”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—REGISTRATIONS FOR MARIHUANA RESEARCH

Sec. 101. Marihuana research applications.

Sec. 102. Research protocols.

Sec. 103. Applications to manufacture marihuana for research.

Sec. 104. Adequate and uninterrupted supply.

Sec. 105. Security requirements.

Sec. 106. Prohibition against reinstating interdisciplinary review process for non-NIH funded researchers.

TITLE II—DEVELOPMENT OF FDA-APPROVED DRUGS USING CANNABIDIOL AND MARIHUANA

Sec. 201. Medical research on cannabidiol.

Sec. 202. Registration for the commercial production and distribution of Food and Drug Administration approved drugs.

Sec. 203. Importation of cannabidiol for research purposes.

TITLE III—DOCTOR-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP

Sec. 301. Doctor-patient relationship.

TITLE IV—FEDERAL RESEARCH

Sec. 401. Federal research.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term “appropriately registered” means that an individual or entity is registered under the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.) to engage in the type of activity that is carried out by the individual or entity with respect to a controlled substance on the schedule that is applicable to cannabidiol or marihuana, as applicable;

(2) the term “cannabidiol” means—

(A) the substance, cannabidiol, as derived from marihuana that has a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol level that is greater than 0.3 percent; and

(B) the synthetic equivalent of the substance described in subparagraph (A);

(3) the terms “controlled substance”, “dispense”, “distribute”, “manufacture”, “marihuana”, and “practitioner” have the meanings given such terms in section 102 of the

Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802), as amended by this Act;

(4) the term “covered institution of higher education” means an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)) that—

(A)(i) has highest or higher research activity, as defined by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education; or

(ii) is an accredited medical school or an accredited school of osteopathic medicine; and

(B) is appropriately registered under the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.);

(5) the term “drug” has the meaning given the term in section 201(g)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321(g)(1));

(6) the term “medical research for drug development” means medical research that is—

(A) a preclinical study or clinical investigation conducted in accordance with section 505(i) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(i)) or otherwise permitted by the Department of Health and Human Services to determine the potential medical benefits of marihuana or cannabidiol as a drug; and

(B) conducted by a covered institution of higher education, practitioner, or manufacturer that is appropriately registered under the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.); and

(7) the term “State” means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, and any territory of the United States.

TITLE I—REGISTRATIONS FOR MARIHUANA RESEARCH

SEC. 101. MARIHUANA RESEARCH APPLICATIONS.

Section 303(f) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823(f)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (5) as subparagraphs (A) through (E), respectively;

(2) by striking “(f) The Attorney General” and inserting “(f)(1) The Attorney General”;

(3) by striking “Registration applications” and inserting the following:

“(2)(A) Registration applications”;

(4) by striking “Article 7” and inserting the following:

“(3) Article 7”; and

(5) by inserting after paragraph (2)(A), as so designated, the following:

“(B)(i) The Attorney General shall register a practitioner to conduct research with marihuana if—

“(I) the applicant’s research protocol—

“(aa) has been reviewed and allowed—

“(AA) by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 505(i) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(i));

“(BB) by the National Institutes of Health or another Federal agency that funds scientific research; or

“(CC) pursuant to sections 1301.18 and 1301.32 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successors thereto; and

“(II) the applicant has demonstrated to the Attorney General that there are effective procedures in place to adequately safeguard against diversion of the controlled substance for legitimate medical or scientific use pursuant to section 105 of the Cannabidiol and Marihuana Research Expansion Act, including demonstrating that the security measures are adequate for storing the quantity of marihuana the applicant would be authorized to possess.

“(ii) The Attorney General may deny an application for registration under this subparagraph only if the Attorney General determines that the issuance of the registra-

tion would be inconsistent with the public interest. In determining the public interest, the Attorney General shall consider the factors listed in—

“(I) subparagraphs (B) through (E) of paragraph (1); and

“(II) subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1), if the applicable State requires practitioners conducting research to register with a board or authority described in such subparagraph (A).

“(iii)(I) Not later than 60 days after the date on which the Attorney General receives a complete application for registration under this subparagraph, the Attorney General shall—

“(aa) approve the application; or

“(bb) request supplemental information.

“(II) For purposes of subclause (I), an application shall be deemed complete when the applicant has submitted documentation showing that the requirements under clause (i) are satisfied.

“(iv) Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Attorney General receives supplemental information as described in clause (iii)(I)(bb) in connection with an application described in this subparagraph, the Attorney General shall approve or deny the application.

“(v) If an application described in this subparagraph is denied, the Attorney General shall provide a written explanation of the basis of denial to the applicant.”.

SEC. 102. RESEARCH PROTOCOLS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2)(B) of section 303(f) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823(f)), as amended by section 101 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(vi)(I) If the Attorney General grants an application for registration under clause (i), the registrant may amend or supplement the research protocol without reapplying if the registrant does not change—

“(aa) the quantity or type of drug;

“(bb) the source of the drug; or

“(cc) the conditions under which the drug is stored, tracked, or administered.

“(II)(aa) If a registrant under clause (i) seeks to change the type of drug, the source of the drug, or conditions under which the drug is stored, tracked, or administered, the registrant shall notify the Attorney General via registered mail, or an electronic means permitted by the Attorney General, not later than 30 days before implementing an amended or supplemental research protocol.

“(bb) A registrant may proceed with an amended or supplemental research protocol described in item (aa) if the Attorney General does not explicitly object during the 30-day period beginning on the date on which the Attorney General receives the notice under item (aa).

“(cc) The Attorney General may only object to an amended or supplemental research protocol under this subclause if additional security measures are needed to safeguard against diversion or abuse.

“(dd) If a registrant under clause (i) seeks to address additional security measures identified by the Attorney General under item (cc), the registrant shall notify the Attorney General via registered mail, or an electronic means permitted by the Attorney General, not later than 30 days before implementing an amended or supplemental research protocol.

“(ee) A registrant may proceed with an amended or supplemental research protocol described in item (dd) if the Attorney General does not explicitly object during the 30-day period beginning on the date on which the Attorney General receives the notice under item (dd).

“(III)(aa) If a registrant under clause (i) seeks to change the quantity of marihuana

needed for research and the change in quantity does not impact the factors described in item (bb) or (cc) of subclause (I) of this clause, the registrant shall notify the Attorney General via registered mail or using an electronic means permitted by the Attorney General.

“(bb) A notification under item (aa) shall include—

“(AA) the Drug Enforcement Administration registration number of the registrant;

“(BB) the quantity of marihuana already obtained;

“(CC) the quantity of additional marihuana needed to complete the research; and

“(DD) an attestation that the change in quantity does not impact the source of the drug or the conditions under which the drug is stored, tracked, or administered.

“(cc) The Attorney General shall ensure that—

“(AA) any registered mail return receipt with respect to a notification under item (aa) is submitted for delivery to the registrant providing the notification not later than 3 days after receipt of the notification by the Attorney General; and

“(BB) notice of receipt of a notification using an electronic means permitted under item (aa) is provided to the registrant providing the notification not later than 3 days after receipt of the notification by the Attorney General.

“(dd)(AA) On and after the date described in subitem (BB), a registrant that submits a notification in accordance with item (aa) may proceed with the research as if the change in quantity has been approved on such date, unless the Attorney General notifies the registrant of an objection described in item (ee).

“(BB) The date described in this subitem is the date on which a registrant submitting a notification under item (aa) receives the registered mail return receipt with respect to the notification or the date on which the registrant receives notice that the notification using an electronic means permitted under item (aa) was received by the Attorney General, as the case may be.

“(ee) A notification submitted under item (aa) shall be deemed to be approved unless the Attorney General, not later than 10 days after receiving the notification, explicitly objects based on a finding that the change in quantity—

“(AA) does impact the source of the drug or the conditions under which the drug is stored, tracked, or administered; or

“(BB) necessitates that the registrant implement additional security measures to safeguard against diversion or abuse.

“(IV) Nothing in this clause shall limit the authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services over requirements related to research protocols, including changes in—

“(aa) the method of administration of marihuana;

“(bb) the dosing of marihuana; and

“(cc) the number of individuals or patients involved in research.”.

(b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall promulgate regulations to carry out the amendment made by this section.

SEC. 103. APPLICATIONS TO MANUFACTURE MARIHUANA FOR RESEARCH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 303 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (c) through (k) as subsections (d) through (l), respectively;

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c)(1)(A) As it relates to applications to manufacture marihuana for research purposes, if the Attorney General places a notice in the Federal Register to increase the number of entities registered under this Act to manufacture marihuana to supply appropriately registered researchers in the United States, the Attorney General shall, not later than 60 days after the date on which the Attorney General receives a completed application—

“(i) approve the application; or

“(ii) request supplemental information.

“(B) For purposes of subparagraph (A), an application shall be deemed complete when the applicant has submitted documentation showing each of the following:

“(i) The requirements designated in the notice in the Federal Register are satisfied.

“(ii) The requirements under this Act are satisfied.

“(iii) The applicant will limit the transfer and sale of any marihuana manufactured under this subsection—

“(I) to researchers who are registered under this Act to conduct research with controlled substances in schedule I; and

“(II) for purposes of use in preclinical research or in a clinical investigation pursuant to an investigational new drug exemption under 505(i) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(i)).

“(iv) The applicant will transfer or sell any marihuana manufactured under this subsection only with prior, written consent for the transfer or sale by the Attorney General.

“(v) The applicant has completed the application and review process under subsection (a) for the bulk manufacture of controlled substances in schedule I.

“(vi) The applicant has established and begun operation of a process for storage and handling of controlled substances in schedule I, including for inventory control and monitoring security in accordance with section 105 of the Cannabidiol and Marihuana Research Expansion Act.

“(vii) The applicant is licensed by each State in which the applicant will conduct operations under this subsection, to manufacture marihuana, if that State requires such a license.

“(C) Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Attorney General receives supplemental information requested under subparagraph (A)(ii) with respect to an application, the Attorney General shall approve or deny the application.

“(2) If an application described in this subsection is denied, the Attorney General shall provide a written explanation of the basis of denial to the applicant.”;

(3) in subsection (h)(2), as so redesignated, by striking “subsection (f)” each place it appears and inserting “subsection (g)”;

(4) in subsection (j)(1), as so redesignated, by striking “subsection (d)” and inserting “subsection (e)”;

(5) in subsection (k), as so redesignated, by striking “subsection (f)” each place it appears and inserting “subsection (g)”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.) is amended—

(A) in section 102 (21 U.S.C. 802)—

(i) in paragraph (16)(B)—

(I) in clause (i), by striking “or” at the end;

(II) by redesignating clause (ii) as (iii); and

(III) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

“(ii) the synthetic equivalent of hemp-derived cannabidiol that contains less than 0.3 percent tetrahydrocannabinol; or”;

(i) in paragraph (52)(B)—

(I) by striking “303(f)” each place it appears and inserting “303(g)”;

(II) in clause (i), by striking “(d), or (e)” and inserting “(e), or (f)”;

(iii) in paragraph (54), by striking “303(f)” each place it appears and inserting “303(g)”;

(B) in section 302(g)(5)(A)(iii)(I)(bb) (21 U.S.C. 822(g)(5)(A)(iii)(I)(bb)), by striking “303(f)” and inserting “303(g)”;

(C) in section 304 (21 U.S.C. 824), by striking “303(g)(1)” each place it appears and inserting “303(h)(1)”;

(D) in section 307(d)(2) (21 U.S.C. 827(d)(2)), by striking “303(f)” and inserting “303(g)”;

(E) in section 309A(a)(2) (21 U.S.C. 829A(a)(2)), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “303(g)(2)” and inserting “303(h)(2)”;

(F) in section 311(h) (21 U.S.C. 831(h)), by striking “303(f)” each place it appears and inserting “303(g)”;

(G) in section 401(h)(2) (21 U.S.C. 841(h)(2)), by striking “303(f)” each place it appears and inserting “303(g)”;

(H) in section 403(c)(2)(B) (21 U.S.C. 843(c)(2)(B)), by striking “303(f)” and inserting “303(g)”;

(I) in section 512(c)(1) (21 U.S.C. 882(c)(1)) by striking “303(f)” and inserting “303(g)”.

(2) Section 1008(c) of the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 958(c)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “303(d)” and inserting “303(e)”;

(B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “303(h)” and inserting “303(i)”.

(3) Title V of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290aa et seq.) is amended—

(A) in section 520E-4(c) (42 U.S.C. 290bb-36d(c)), by striking “303(g)(2)(B)” and inserting “303(h)(2)(B)”;

(B) in section 544(a)(3) (42 U.S.C. 290dd-3(a)(3)), by striking “303(g)” and inserting “303(h)”.

(4) Title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) is amended—

(A) in section 1833(bb)(3)(B) (42 U.S.C. 1395l(bb)(3)(B)), by striking “303(g)” and inserting “303(h)”;

(B) in section 1834(o)(3)(C)(ii) (42 U.S.C. 1395m(o)(3)(C)(ii)), by striking “303(g)” and inserting “303(h)”;

(C) in section 1866F(c)(3)(C) (42 U.S.C. 1395cc-6(c)(3)(C)), by striking “303(g)” and inserting “303(h)”.

(5) Section 1903(aa)(2)(C)(ii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b(aa)(2)(C)(ii)) is amended by striking “303(g)” each place it appears and inserting “303(h)”.

SEC. 104. ADEQUATE AND UNINTERRUPTED SUPPLY.

On an annual basis, the Attorney General shall assess whether there is an adequate and uninterrupted supply of marihuana, including of specific strains, for research purposes.

SEC. 105. SECURITY REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—An individual or entity engaged in researching marihuana or its components shall store it in a securely locked, substantially constructed cabinet.

(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR OTHER MEASURES.—Any other security measures required by the Attorney General to safeguard against diversion shall be consistent with those required for practitioners conducting research on other controlled substances in schedules I and II in section 202(c) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812(c)) that have a similar risk of diversion and abuse.

SEC. 106. PROHIBITION AGAINST REINSTATING INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW PROCESS FOR NON-NIH FUNDED RESEARCHERS.

The Secretary of Health and Human Services may not—

(1) reinstate the Public Health Service interdisciplinary review process described in the guidance entitled “Guidance on Procedures for the Provision of Marijuana for

Medical Research” (issued on May 21, 1999); or

(2) require another review of scientific protocols that is applicable only to research on marihuana or its components.

TITLE II—DEVELOPMENT OF FDA-APPROVED DRUGS USING CANNABIDIOL AND MARIHUANA

SEC. 201. MEDICAL RESEARCH ON CANNABIDIOL.

Notwithstanding any provision of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.), the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (20 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), chapter 81 of title 41, United States Code, or any other Federal law, an appropriately registered covered institution of higher education, a practitioner, or a manufacturer may manufacture, distribute, dispense, or possess marihuana or cannabidiol if the marihuana or cannabidiol is manufactured, distributed, dispensed, or possessed, respectively, for purposes of medical research for drug development or subsequent commercial production in accordance with section 202.

SEC. 202. REGISTRATION FOR THE COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION APPROVED DRUGS.

The Attorney General shall register an applicant to manufacture or distribute cannabidiol or marihuana for the purpose of commercial production of a drug containing or derived from marihuana that is approved by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355), in accordance with the applicable requirements under subsection (a) or (b) of section 303 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 823).

SEC. 203. IMPORTATION OF CANNABIDIOL FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES.

The Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 951 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 1002(a) (21 U.S.C. 952(a))—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (2)(C), by inserting “and” after “uses,”;

(C) inserting before the undesignated matter following paragraph (2)(C) the following:

“(3) such amounts of marihuana or cannabidiol (as defined in section 2 of the Cannabidiol and Marihuana Research Expansion Act) as are—

“(A) approved for medical research for drug development (as such terms are defined in section 2 of the Cannabidiol and Marihuana Research Expansion Act), or

“(B) necessary for registered manufacturers to manufacture drugs containing marihuana or cannabidiol that have been approved for use by the Commissioner of Food and Drugs under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.);”;

(2) in section 1007 (21 U.S.C. 957), by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), no person may—

“(A) import into the customs territory of the United States from any place outside thereof (but within the United States), or import into the United States from any place outside thereof, any controlled substance or list I chemical, or

“(B) export from the United States any controlled substance or list I chemical, unless there is in effect with respect to such person a registration issued by the Attorney General under section 1008, or unless such person is exempt from registration under subsection (b).

“(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to the import or export of marihuana or cannabidiol (as defined in section 2 of the Cannabidiol and Marihuana Research Expansion Act) that has been approved for—

“(A) medical research for drug development authorized under section 201 of the Cannabidiol and Marihuana Research Expansion Act; or

“(B) use by registered manufacturers to manufacture drugs containing marihuana or cannabidiol that have been approved for use by the Commissioner of Food and Drugs under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.).”.

TITLE III—DOCTOR-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP

SEC. 301. DOCTOR-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP.

It shall not be a violation of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.) for a State-licensed physician to discuss—

(1) the currently known potential harms and benefits of marihuana derivatives, including cannabidiol, as a treatment with the legal guardian of the patient of the physician if the patient is a child; or

(2) the currently known potential harms and benefits of marihuana and marihuana derivatives, including cannabidiol, as a treatment with the patient or the legal guardian of the patient of the physician if the patient is a legal adult.

TITLE IV—FEDERAL RESEARCH

SEC. 401. FEDERAL RESEARCH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in coordination with the Director of the National Institutes of Health and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit to the Caucus on International Narcotics Control, the Committee on the Judiciary, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report on—

(1) the potential therapeutic effects of cannabidiol or marihuana on serious medical conditions, including intractable epilepsy;

(2) the potential effects of marihuana, including—

(A) the effect of increasing delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol levels on the human body and developing adolescent brains; and

(B) the effect of various delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol levels on cognitive abilities, such as those that are required to operate motor vehicles or other heavy equipment; and

(3) the barriers associated with researching marihuana or cannabidiol in States that have legalized the use of such substances, which shall include—

(A) recommendations as to how such barriers might be overcome, including whether public-private partnerships or Federal-State research partnerships may or should be implemented to provide researchers with access to additional strains of marihuana and cannabidiol; and

(B) recommendations as to what safeguards must be in place to verify—

(i) the levels of tetrahydrocannabinol, cannabidiol, or other cannabinoids contained in products obtained from such States is accurate; and

(ii) that such products do not contain harmful or toxic components.

(b) ACTIVITIES.—To the extent practicable, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, either directly or through awarding grants, contacts, or cooperative agreements, shall expand and coordinate the activities of the National Institutes of Health and other relevant Federal agencies to better determine the effects of cannabidiol and marihuana, as outlined in the report submitted under paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a).

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I have 4 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CYBERSECURITY

The Subcommittee on Cybersecurity of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 15, 2020, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Implications of China's Presence and Investment in Africa.”

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATION, TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION, AND THE INTERNET

The Subcommittee on Communication, Technology, Innovation, and The Internet of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 15, 2020, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MANUFACTURING, TRADE, CONSUMER PRODUCT

The Subcommittee on Manufacturing, Trade, and Consumer Product of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 15, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The Subcommittee on Intellectual Property of the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 15, 2020, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I have a request for one committee to meet during today's session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 15, 2020, at 11 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the nomination.

PATENTS FOR HUMANITY PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 488, H.R. 7259.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7259) to allow acceleration certificates awarded under the Patents for Humanity Program to be transferable.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SASSE. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 7259) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

SERVICEMEMBERS AND VETERANS INITIATIVE ACT OF 2020

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 8354, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 8354) to establish the Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative within the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SASSE. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read three times and passed and that 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. 8354) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE ATRIUM IN THE PHILIP A. HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. SASSE. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 801, submitted earlier today.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 801) authorizing the use of the atrium in the Philip A. Hart Senate Office Building for a piano performance by Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SASSE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 801) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

DATA MAPPING TO SAVE MOMS' LIVES ACT

Mr. SASSE. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 604, S. 3152.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3152) to require the Federal Communications Commission to incorporate data on maternal health outcomes into its broadband health maps.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

S. 3152

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 "Data Mapping to Save Moms' Lives Act".

SEC. 2. MAPPING BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY AND MATERNAL HEALTH OUTCOMES.

(a) INCORPORATION OF MATERNAL HEALTH OUTCOME DATA.—The Federal Communications Commission shall incorporate data on maternal health outcomes for not less than 1 year postpartum, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention under subsection (b), into the most recently available broadband health mapping tools of the Commission.

(b) CONSULTATION WITH CDC.—The Federal Communications Commission shall consult with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding the maternal health outcomes that should be incorporated into the most recently available broadband health mapping tools of the Commission under subsection (a).

SEC. 3. GAO STUDY.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall study and submit to Congress a report on—

- (1) the effectiveness of internet connectivity in reducing maternal morbidity rates; and
- (2) who is best suited to take responsibility for ensuring better internet connectivity to reduce maternal morbidity rates.

Mr. SASSE. I further ask that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 3152), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

PROTECTING FAMILIES OF FALLEN SERVICEMEMBERS ACT

Mr. SASSE. I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consid-

eration of H.R. 4356 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4356) to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to allow certain individuals to terminate contracts for telephone, multichannel video programming, or internet access service, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SASSE. 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. 4356) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CANNABIDIOL AND MARIHUANA RESEARCH EXPANSION ACT

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 2032 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2032) to expand research on the cannabidiol and marihuana.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SASSE. I ask unanimous consent that the Feinstein substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to and that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

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

The amendment (No. 2708) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.)

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. SASSE. I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 2032), as amended, was passed.

Mr. SASSE. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

POSTHUMOUSLY AWARDING THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged and that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 2054.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A 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.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SASSE. I ask unanimous consent that the Markey substitute amendment, No. 2692, be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 2692) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

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.

The bill (S. 2054), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

STRENGTHENING THE OPPOSITION TO FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION ACT OF 2020

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6100 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6100) to amend title 18, United States Code, to clarify the criminalization of female genital mutilation, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SASSE. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 6100) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 16, 2020**

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. tomorrow, Wednesday, December 16; further, that following the prayer and pledge, 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; fur-

ther, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Crytzer nomination; further, that notwithstanding rule XXII, all postcloture time on the Crytzer nomination expire at 11:30 tomorrow; finally, if confirmed, the motion to reconsider with respect to the Crytzer nomination be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW**

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:57 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 15, 2020:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JULIE D. FISHER, OF TENNESSEE, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS.

JONATHAN PRATT, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI.

THE JUDICIARY

THOMAS L. KIRSCH II, OF INDIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT.