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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, November 8, 2019, at 1 p.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2019

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The prayer will be given by the Senator from Oklahoma, Mr. INHOFE. He will lead us in prayer.

Mr. INHOFE. Let us pray.

Almighty God, Creator of all, as we gather here today, we are grateful for the servicemembers who are deployed in the defense of our great Nation under God. We ask for Your comfort for the families who continue their duties at home with the courage to maintain the homefront in the absence of their loved ones.

Protect our service men and women with the shield of Your strength as they discharge their sacred mission, and keep them safe from all evil and harm. May the power of Your love enable them to return home in safety, that with all who love them, they may ever praise You for Your loving care.

Assist with Your spirit of counsel and fortitude for the President and other government leaders of these United States. May they always seek the ways of righteousness, justice, and mercy. Grant that they may be enabled by Your powerful protection to lead our country with honesty and integrity.

Lord, we know all too well our weak and infallible human nature, and we recognize that the work which lies before us is demanding and complex. Yet, O God, I thank You for calling us to this difficult and rewarding work.

Lead our troops and all of us, O Lord, in the way of peace. Unite us in the spirit of service.

We pray these things in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAMER). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for 1 minute.

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

VETERANS DAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, this year on Veterans Day, I will join all Americans in honoring those who have served in our Armed Forces. As a nation, we owe those who have served a debt of gratitude for the sacrifices they have made to protect our country, our way of life, and the principles of liberty and natural rights. Too often, we forget to thank the families who are left behind while they are in service. They deserve our consideration as well.

The least we can do in return is work to ensure that all veterans have the healthcare and benefits they have earned. We owe it to veterans to ensure that they are never forsaken, nor forgotten.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this week, the Senate will continue to confirm President Trump's well-qualified judicial nominees. This President and this Senate have prioritized confirming impressive men and women to these lifetime appointments—talented individuals who believe in the quaint notion that the job of a judge is to apply our Nation's laws and Constitution as they were actually written, not as they might wish they were written.

At the close of business today, it so happens, one in every four judges on the Federal courts of appeals will have been nominated by President Trump and confirmed by us here in the Senate.

There is nothing about this that ought to be viewed as a partisan accomplishment or an accomplishment only for this President or only for one side. That is the wrong way to look at it. Every American should be proud of this. Citizens deserve a judiciary of fairminded men and women who don't confuse their jobs with the job of a legislator. Every Member of this body should be proud to confirm Federal judges who understand that our job is to make the laws, and their job is to apply them fairly.

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



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If the concept of faithful judges fulfilling their proper role strikes anyone as a partisan development or a threat to their political agenda, I would suggest it is their agenda that needs modifying and not the judicial branch that our Founders intended.

COAL INDUSTRY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on another matter, one of the untold stories of the Obama administration was the dramatic geographic inequality that deepened on the Democrats' watch.

From 2010 to 2016, the Nation's largest metro areas captured nearly 75 percent of the new jobs and 90 percent of the population growth. Big cities did OK, but unfair and regressive policies, like the War on Coal, left many other communities—smaller cities, small towns, and rural areas—literally in the dust.

Homegrown American energy, including coal, has supported entire communities in Kentucky and throughout the country for generations, but even before he took office, President Obama declared a war on coal. Here is what he said: "If somebody wants to build a coal-fired power plant, they can; it is just that it will bankrupt them."

Of course, that approach didn't only hurt American businesses, it hurt American workers. In 2009, 23,000 Kentuckians made their living mining coal. By the end of 2016, that number had dropped to barely more than 6,500. It went from 23,000 to 6,500 during the Obama years. Nearly three-quarters of the State's coal jobs were gone in the span of one Presidency.

So since the earliest days of the Trump administration, we have prioritized ending the War on Coal and trying to repair the damage. We have repealed hostile regulations and created tailwinds instead of headwinds for America's energy dominance. But 8 years of damage is not easy to unwind. Many coal communities are still suffering. There are more mine closures and more bankruptcies. Workers' paychecks and retirees' pensions are thrown into uncertainty. So our work continues.

A few years back, I worked to secure permanent health benefits for thousands of retirees. Yesterday, a bipartisan group here in the Senate, led by Senators CAPITO, MANCHIN, and me, took a major step toward addressing the emergency of underfunded pensions for thousands of miners, retirees, and their families. We introduced new legislation to expand that healthcare fix to include 13,000 more miners and protect the pensions of nearly 92,000 miners into the future.

Earlier this week, I personally raised the subject with President Trump. We discussed the importance of working toward a solution for these retirees.

Just yesterday, I hosted Kentucky miners here in the Capitol to hear their concerns and discuss a potential path forward.

I have spent my entire career in the Senate fighting for all Kentuckians. I have worked to protect coal communities from bad ideas and to promote their future, and I will keep working with the Trump administration and my colleagues on both sides to support our mining families.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Now on another matter, Mr. President, earlier this week, the Securities and Exchange Commission took a significant step into the 21st century. When public companies put business decisions up for a vote by their shareholders, it stands to reason that large asset managers who own many shares on behalf of their clients have enormous power to determine the outcome. Since these institutional investors lack the bandwidth to study every single company in great detail, many rely heavily on outside advisory firms.

In principle, there is nothing wrong with institutional investors getting advice, but in practice, things get pretty interesting. This cottage industry of proxy advisory firms is extremely concentrated in a very few hands. I believe the two largest firms have something like 97 percent market share between them, and their advice is often taken uncritically. One analysis of major asset managers found that 95 percent of their voting followed one advisory firm's recommendation.

So we have a small concentration of voices wielding enormous power over American business, and questions have arisen about whether they really exercise that power to serve the best financial interests of the investors. In some cases, the proxy advisers seem less interested in the particular interests of the particular company and more interested in advancing a preconceived ideological agenda. In other words, these firms are accused of leveraging their incredible influence to force corporations to conform to their own vision of social justice.

That is why, as the Chairman of the SEC explained, he receives letters from ordinary American investors expressing "concern that their financial investments, including their retirement funds, were being steered by third parties to promote individual agendas, rather than to further their [own] primary goals" of saving for retirement and leaving something behind for their kids and grandkids.

These proxy advisers are regulated by the SEC, and as it happens, some parts of these rules had not been updated since 1954. So this week the SEC has updated these Eisenhower-era guidelines for the 21st century. The new rules will enable more transparency and accountability. They will help ensure that these powerful voices have meaningful skin in the game and are not simply searching for a convenient vehicle to advance their preconceived interests.

I applaud the step forward by Chairman Clayton and the SEC.

VETERANS DAY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, now on one final matter, on Monday, our Nation will observe Veterans Day. Some will gather here in our Nation's Capital at the proud monuments that pay enduring tribute to the service and sacrifice of generations of brave servicemembers. Many more will mark the day in ceremonies in small towns and cities across our country. And, of course, many Americans will have veterans to thank firsthand in their own families and neighborhoods.

My own father's Army service took him to the heart of the battle for Europe in 1945. His company sustained heavy losses. When he returned home, he traded his uniform for a briefcase and went back to work in our community.

Perhaps the only thing more remarkable than the heroic service that generations of veterans have offered at home and overseas is the fact that they come home and keep right on serving in new ways—as fathers and mothers, as skilled workers, as entrepreneurs, or as educators, and in every case, as a custodian of a unique part of our Nation's collective memory.

It is a cliché, but it is a cliché for good reason: the land of the free because of the brave.

The Senate will not be in session on Monday, as we honor Veterans Day, but I hope that each of our Members will be remembering and giving thanks for all veterans and for those brave men and women serving today. Their efforts are the reason why this Chamber exists, why it still stands, and why American self-government and American freedom endure.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Lee Philip Rudofsky, of Arkansas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, Senate Democrats had hoped to work with our Republican colleagues this year on a fully bipartisan process. It got off to a great start when the four congressional leaders reached a budget deal over the summer, but it quickly went awry.

Senate Republicans departed from the bipartisan process by unilaterally proposing their own allocations to the various agencies. This was not part of the agreement. This was not in the spirit or concept of the agreement. It was always, when we agreed, that we would work out the 302(b) allocations. Instead, the Republicans went ahead, unilaterally, and they proposed moving \$12 billion—\$12 billion—from critical health programs and military families to pay for the President's border wall, and that was way out of bounds.

The Republican leader has accused Democrats, myself included, of breaking our budget deal by not going along with these very partisan bills. He knows—and every Member of this Chamber, Democrat and Republican, knows well—that Democrats are not going to support a unilateral move by the Republicans to take \$12 billion away from military families, education, opioids, and NIH and put it into the President's vanity, partisan wall. So, until Republicans get serious about negotiating a bipartisan way forward, the partisan appropriation bills are all we have and they cannot move forward.

Now, in the last few days, after conversations that I had with Leader MCCONNELL, Speaker PELOSI, and Leader MCCARTHY, we are seeing some positive signs that we can get the process back on track. This month, Democrats and Republicans worked through a package of bipartisan appropriation bills on the floor with few issues. Now, as we speak, both parties, both sides—Democrats and Republicans, House and Senate appropriators—have started talking again about restarting the good-faith negotiations on the remaining bills.

We hope this moves forward in a bipartisan way. Each side has to agree. I will repeat my view. If President Trump stays out of it, we will come to an agreement. If President Trump messes in, if the Republican leader feels so in obeisance to Donald Trump, who doesn't have any concept of how to get things done around here, then we will not get it done, and we may have a second Trump shutdown with the leader going along, which will not succeed. It will not succeed in getting them what they want.

So I hope that with a little effort and compromise, we in Congress can find a

way forward on appropriations by working together.

WHISTLEBLOWERS

Mr. President, on the whistleblower, yesterday, the House Intelligence Committee announced the schedule for its first week of public hearings in the House impeachment inquiry, including testimony from the current and former top U.S. diplomats in Ukraine. These public hearings are a reminder that the whistleblower's account has already been corroborated many times over by officials with firsthand knowledge of the situation.

Yet there remains a searing focus by the President and one Member of this Chamber on the whistleblower. Even though his or her account has been verified by other sources, the White House and, most particularly, the junior Senator from Kentucky, seem committed to discrediting the whistleblower, disclosing the whistleblower's identity, and turning the rightwing media machine on this person—and they can be vicious.

The junior Senator from Kentucky went so far as to block a simple resolution from my friend the Senator from Hawaii, MAZIE HIRONO, that would have reconfirmed the Senate's support for whistleblower protection laws—laws that have been on the books for a very long time.

The whole concept started with the Continental Congress, even before the Constitution. We are going down a dangerous road when Members of this body are refusing to stand up for our Nation's laws, particularly those laws that enforce the rule of law and make sure our government is doing what the people want.

These attempts to expose the whistleblower are unfortunately not the only example of how a few of my colleagues are taking the defense of this President too far. It seems that with each coming week, sometimes each coming day, the President's allies in Congress come up with a new tortured defense of his actions. House Republicans have gone from attacking the process because it was closed to attacking it because it was opened. They have gone from insisting on "no quid pro quo" to saying "maybe quid pro quo but who cares?"

Here in the Senate, we heard a new one from the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, who said the Trump policy on Ukraine was so "incoherent" that the administration was "incapable of performing a quid pro quo." That is a good one. Seriously, he said that. They are reaching. They are reaching as far as they can because they know that the facts—at least as we have heard from the House; we will wait until they come over here, if they do—that the facts about what the President did are so damning.

There was even a Member of this Chamber who went so far as to insult the Speaker's intelligence at a political rally—a childish and nasty smear that is far out of bounds.

Nobody is happy about the fact that the House is examining the potential impeachment of a President. It has always been a sad and somber process. But there is no excuse for jumping to conclusions, advocating for lawbreaking, or resorting to nasty insults. This is a time when we must check partisanship at the door, study the facts in the case, and make our own independent judgments. That is our duty. I will remind all of our colleagues that history will one day judge whether or not we lived up to it.

PRESIDENT ERDOGAN

Mr. President, on ISIS, next week President Trump will welcome Turkish President Erdogan to the White House. Frankly, it is confounding that President Trump is rolling out the welcome mat to an autocrat whose recent actions have threatened our allies and partners.

For over 5 years, American and coalition troops, including our Syrian Kurdish partners, worked shoulder to shoulder in northern Syria to bring ISIS to the brink of defeat. But after the President's calamitous decision to greenlight Erdogan's military operation and precipitously withdraw American troops, Turkish forces and their proxies have advanced far into northern Syria, committing atrocities without accountability. It is a shameful betrayal of our Syrian Kurdish partners, and it has thrown our efforts to defeat ISIS into chaos. At least 100 ISIS detainees have reportedly broken out of prison and disappeared, and they could be very dangerous to us in our homeland.

While we are glad that terrorists like al-Baghdadi have been taken off the field, a fundamental question remains: What is the administration's plan to secure and defeat ISIS?

It is unacceptable that a month into this crisis, the President has chosen to welcome Erdogan to American soil before explaining to Congress his plan to defeat ISIS. So ahead of Erdogan's arrival next week, I and several of my Democratic colleagues are sending a letter to President Trump demanding that he submit to Congress a comprehensive plan to secure the enduring defeat of ISIS.

There are questions that need to be answered immediately. How many ISIS members have been accounted for in the wake of our withdrawal? How are we going to stabilize former ISIS territory? What training will we give to the forces on the ground to continue fighting ISIS? These questions need to be answered at once. They are far more urgent than welcoming an autocrat who just bullied the President into giving him everything that this autocrat wanted.

NOMINATION OF STEVEN J. MENASHI

Mr. President, finally, on Mr. Menashi, in a few minutes—maybe as of now—the Judiciary Committee will be holding a vote on a nominee who is dangerously unfit to serve on the U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals—Mr.

Steven Menashi of New York. His nomination should not be allowed to continue.

Mr. Menashi has a very troubling record on race, women's equality, LGBTG rights, and the rights of immigrants. His conduct before the Judiciary Committee was insulting, his contempt for the Senate reprehensible, and his refusal to be forthcoming about his record is outright disqualifying.

But if members of the committee needed any more evidence to vote against Menashi's nomination, they should read this morning's New York Times. The headline reads "Appeals Court Nominee Shaped DeVos's Illegal Loan Forgiveness Effort." The Times reports that during Mr. Menashi's tenure working with Secretary DeVos at the Department of Education, he played a leading role in designing an illegal effort to deny debt relief to thousands of students swindled by for-profit colleges.

Let me repeat. Mr. Menashi concocted a plan to illegally use the private Social Security data of defrauded student borrowers to deny them debt forgiveness after they were preyed upon by for-profit schools. A Federal judge ruled that these efforts violated privacy laws.

This is someone the President wants us to make an appellate court judge? A judge is supposed to uphold the law, interpret the law, and have a reverence for the law, not someone who schemes to break the law, as Mr. Menashi did.

Mr. Menashi's nomination is an embarrassment to this country. It is an insult to millions of hard-working young Americans saddled with student debt. It is an insult to women and LGBTQ Americans, to African Americans and immigrants, and to everyone who believes in the rule of law.

If anyone has not earned the privilege of a lifetime appointment to the bench, it is Mr. Menashi. I urge every Member of the Judiciary Committee to vote against his nomination.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, on Tuesday morning, I visited with Secretary of Defense Mark Esper. We talked about the military's needs and national security priorities, and we talked about the fact that more than a month into the new fiscal year, Congress still hasn't funded the military for fiscal year 2020. We shouldn't have needed to talk about that. We should have passed the Defense appropriations bill for 2020 weeks ago, but Democrats won't let us.

Last week, Democrats blocked consideration of the 2020 Defense appropriations bill for the second time. Apparently they have every intention of continuing to block military funding. This is politics at its worst. And make no mistake—this is politics. A couple of months ago, Democrats and Republicans got together and agreed on defense and nondefense funding levels for

2020 and 2021. The idea was to pave the way for the passage of appropriations bills in a timely fashion. It seemed for a moment that despite Democrats' fixation on partisan politics and impeachment, we could actually go about funding the government and the military in a somewhat bipartisan fashion, but apparently that was too much to ask of the Senate Democrats. Senate Democrats are currently running from the agreement, attempting to derail the defense funding bill with poison pills that would prevent the bill from ever being enacted into law.

Funding our military should be the first priority of every Member of Congress. The safety of our country depends on the strength of our military. If we don't get national security right, the rest is conversation. Getting national security right means making sure our military is adequately funded, making sure we are funding the needs of the current military and preparing for future priorities. It should go without saying that an essential part of this responsibility is getting that funding passed in a timely fashion.

Right now, since we haven't passed the 2020 funding bill, the military is operating under a continuing resolution that maintains funding levels from last year. There are multiple problems with that.

In the first place, the military is operating without all the funding it needs. For example, the Pentagon can't fully support the pay increase military members should be getting.

In addition, the continuing resolution prevents the military from starting key projects that will help ensure our men and women in uniform are prepared to meet the threats of the future. The Pentagon can't start new procurement projects. New research and development initiatives that keep us a step ahead of our adversaries are put on hold.

All told, under a continuing resolution, the military's purchasing power is reduced by roughly \$5 billion each quarter. Five billion dollars each quarter that we continue to operate under a continuing resolution is the amount of purchasing power that is lost to our military to meet their critical priorities. To put that in perspective, that is the equivalent of losing out on about 56 F-35 Joint Strike Fighter planes, depending on the variant, every 3 months; or nearly 2 complete Virginia-class attack submarines, like the recently commissioned USS *South Dakota*; or about 5,000 Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missiles, like those used to clean up the site of the Baghdad raid or strike Syrian chemical weapons facilities in 2018. That \$5 billion isn't spare change; it is funding for critical military priorities.

In November of 2018, the bipartisan National Defense Strategy Commission released a report warning that our readiness had eroded to the point where we might struggle to win a war against a major power, like Russia or

China. That is a dangerous situation for our country to be in, and we need to keep working to rebuild our military. That starts with making sure our military is fully funded in a timely fashion.

On the floor last week, I noted that Democrats would like us to believe that they are serious about legislating and that their years-long obsession with impeaching the President isn't distracting them from doing their job. After the Democrats' defense filibuster last week, it is becoming clear that the Democrats are incapable of putting anything ahead of partisan politics, including the safety of our country and the well-being of our military.

It is particularly ironic that the Democrats are blocking this defense funding bill, which would provide \$250 million in assistance to Ukraine, at the same time they are trying to impeach the President for allegedly delaying Ukraine funding. Think about that.

It is hard to know what to say to my Democrat colleagues. It should not be this hard to convince them that funding our military is more important than scoring points against the President.

I hope the leader will continue to bring up the defense funding bill and that enough of my Democratic colleagues will decide to join us in getting this funding to our military. It is the very least we can do for the men and women who spend every day working to keep us safe.

VETERANS DAY

Mr. President, Veterans Day is coming up on Monday, and our Nation will pause to remember all those who have served in our military. I will be calling my dad, who will be 100 in December—a World War II vet who flew Hellcats in the Pacific—to thank him again for his service.

As a U.S. Senator, I have had the privilege of meeting many veterans—men and women who decided they were willing to lay down their lives if necessary to ensure that their families, communities, and fellow countrymen could enjoy the blessings of freedom. Members of the military give up a lot for us. They forgo physical comforts and embrace sacrifice.

They accept long deployments and days of duty that start before dawn or stretch long into the night. They accept the fact that they will miss Thanksgivings and birthdays and Christmases, first steps and first days of kindergarten, date nights and little league games, and family reunions. They shoulder the burden of facing evil head-on so that the rest of us will never have to. And many of them bear the scars—the physical wounds and the invisible wounds—that war can also leave.

We enjoy tremendous blessings, and we are used to them. We are used to waking up in safety. We are used to going about our days in safety. We are used to voting in safety, attending church in safety, reading the newspaper in safety, expressing political

opinions in safety. It can be too easy to forget that we enjoy these tremendous blessings because men and women have been willing to go out and put their lives on the line for them.

Veterans Day is a chance to remind ourselves—to remember that we live in peace and freedom every day because men and women were willing to answer the call to serve our country. We owe our veterans a debt we can never repay. Yet we can make sure that we never forget what they have done for us, and we can resolve to lead the kinds of lives that make us worthy of their sacrifice.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I am here to once again shine a spotlight on Senate Republicans' unwavering support for President Trump's efforts to remake the Federal judiciary and to make clear how this is going to hurt families, women, and communities in Washington State and across our Nation.

I have come here before to call out Senate Republicans for rubberstamping this President's judicial nominees—many of whom have no business sitting on the Federal bench—and for gutting precedent and norms to allow this President to jam-pack our courts with his hard-right, ideological picks from Neil Gorsuch to Brett Kavanaugh and down the line.

In fact, earlier this week, the majority leader pointed out how Senate Republicans have cleared the way on the floor for the Senate to take up even more Trump judges by poisoning the appropriations process and generally turning the Senate into a legislative graveyard. Led by the majority leader, Senate Republicans have ignored the standards we have held for decades when considering judicial nominees and opened the door to people who lack even the most basic qualifications to sit on the Federal bench.

For starters, today the Senate is slated to take up the nomination of Lee Rudofsky for Arkansas' Eastern District. Mr. Rudofsky has a long history in Arkansas of working to deny women access to reproductive healthcare. He defended Arkansas' law that would ban abortion at 12 weeks as an "ideal vehicle" for the Supreme Court to "reevaluate" and "overturn" *Roe v. Wade*. On top of that, Mr. Rudofsky has also previously argued in favor of efforts to cut off Medicaid funding to Planned Parenthood. He defended a State law that could have resulted in the closure of every reproductive healthcare clinic that provides abortions in the State, and he has worked against hard-fought progress for equality for LGBTQIA people.

Does that sound like a judge who is going to protect the rights of women and others and who will put aside his own partisan notions to ensure equal protection under our laws for everyone? It does not.

Take Sarah Pitlyk, whom President Trump has nominated to a district court in Missouri. Missouri is reeling from this administration's repeated attacks on women's healthcare and reproductive health where there is currently only one clinic in the entire State that can perform abortions. Ms. Pitlyk has worked throughout her career to limit access to a wide array of reproductive healthcare services, not just abortions. She has expressed opposition to surrogacy, in vitro fertilization, and even the use of contraception. To be more explicit, she called birth control "evil" and a "grave moral wrong"—birth control. It is the 21st century, and no matter what the extreme anti-abortion men in the White House want us to believe, birth control is healthcare, full stop. We cannot have judges on the bench who are so ideologically driven as to think women are morally wrong for using it.

Even beyond her rigid ideology, Ms. Pitlyk is also woefully unfit on the merits to become a Federal judge. In fact, the American Bar Association unanimously determined that Ms. Pitlyk is "not qualified," writing that Ms. Pitlyk "has never tried a case as a lead or co-counsel" and "has never examined a witness."

Does that sound like someone who will uphold the rule of law justly and apply the laws of our land fairly—someone rated as "objectively unqualified" and who has demonstrated no commitment to protecting individuals' fundamental rights? Again, unfortunately, the answer is no.

Then there is Steven Menashi, whom President Trump has nominated to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. We know Mr. Menashi has a deeply disturbing history of disparaging comments against women, against communities of color, against immigrants, and the LGBTQIA community. As if his extreme views aren't bad enough, we know that in his role in the Office of the General Counsel at the Department of Education, Mr. Menashi also worked on Secretary DeVos's cruel rollback of title IX protections for survivors of sexual assault and protections for students regardless of sex. Under his tenure, Secretary DeVos has moved us toward a dangerous system of unaccountability and secrecy where LGBTQIA students could be subject to cruel discrimination at school.

Additionally, I am incredibly concerned about Mr. Menashi's confirmed role in being one of the architects of Secretary DeVos's efforts to violate the law by undermining protections for student borrowers who were cheated by predatory for-profit colleges—students whose rights are, at this moment, being undercut by people in our Federal Government, such as Mr. Menashi, who should be doing just the opposite.

People deserve to trust that the women and men who serve as our Federal judges will ensure equal protection for all and apply the law fairly and without bias.

I ask again: Considering Mr. Menashi's troubling record of undermining critical rights and questions surrounding his involvement in Secretary DeVos's shameful efforts to ignore the law, does he sound like someone who deserves a lifetime appointment to our Federal bench, someone who will uphold our rule of law?

Confirming judges to our Federal courts is one of our most important duties as Senators. It is one that I take very seriously. I am deeply disturbed by the harm these individuals, if confirmed, may inflict upon women, on families, and some of the most vulnerable members of our communities.

Let me be clear about these nominations. Nothing less is at stake than the integrity of our judicial system and the future of our democracy. We have to maintain the high bar we set for Federal judges, and these judges I have mentioned are just three examples of how far we have fallen.

It is not too late. I know my Republican colleagues know what a farce this process has become and how supremely unqualified these nominees are. I know they are aware of the irreparable harm people like these will have on the credibility of our judicial system. That is why we have to stop this parade of unqualified, ideologically rigid nominees to our Federal judiciary. When it comes to our courts, nothing is more important than ensuring we are sustaining a system that people can trust—one that upholds our laws, one that seeks justice without bias or favor or agenda.

I urge my colleagues to join me in rejecting Mr. Rudofsky's nomination, as well as the nominations of Ms. Pitlyk and Mr. Menashi and any nominee offered by President Trump who does not meet our high standards, and in returning to a thoughtful, rigorous, bipartisan process of selecting only the most qualified judges to a lifetime appointment on our Federal courts.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

VETERANS DAY

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise today to say just a word about Veterans Day, but then to talk about our Nation's historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions.

We will celebrate Veterans Day as a nation on Monday, so this will be an opportunity to stand as a Member of the Armed Services Committee and as a Senator from a very militarily connected State to echo the words of Senator THUNE from a few minutes ago that we owe a huge debt to our veterans.

Also, November 10 is the 244th anniversary of the Marine Corps. As a father of a U.S. marine, I also want to specifically offer my congratulations to the Corps.

One of the joys of serving in the Senate and being on the Armed Services Committee from a State that has the

military tradition of Virginia is the ability to meet wonderful leaders all around my commonwealth, all around the country, and all around the globe. For those serving our country, we are in their debt.

I do want to point out that we are having a debate on the floor over the Defense appropriations. The Senator from South Dakota spoke a little bit about that. I just want to lay out from the Democratic perspective what is at stake. It is not support of the military that is at stake. As an Armed Services Committee member, I am devoted to making sure we get to the right appropriations level for the Department of Defense.

What is holding this up is not one party or the other not supporting the military. What is holding this up is that Democrats do not approve of the practice that has been engaged in by President Trump of rummaging through the Defense Department's budget to come up with money for a border wall, which our military leadership says is a nonmilitary issue.

We do not believe that once Congress appropriates money for a defense budget, the President should be able to use an emergency declaration to go into the coffers of the Pentagon and cannibalize projects that affect our military families to use for the border wall. To the extent there is a dispute right now, that is what the dispute is about. It is not support for the Defense Department or not; it is whether we should allow a rummage sale in the Pentagon budget to fund a border wall.

If you are going to have a discussion about border wall funding, let's do that separately, but let's not cannibalize the Defense Department's budget to do it.

FUTURE ACT

Mr. President, I said that I want to talk a little bit about our historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions.

Many of my colleagues have been on the floor this week talking about a bill called the FUTURE Act, which is bipartisan. It passed from the House over to the Senate, fostering undergraduate talent by unlocking resources for education. It also has bipartisan support in the Senate. I am hoping that because it has bipartisan support, we might be able to move forward with it promptly.

Congress put in place a mandatory funding stream in title III of the Higher Education Act to invest in these institutions. Historically Black colleges and universities—commonly called HBCUs—Tribal colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, and other minority-serving institutions help boost educational opportunity for all students but especially for students of color. These schools serve a disproportionate number of students from low-income families, and 75 percent of the students at HBCUs and 90 percent of the students at Tribal colleges and universities are Pell grant-el-

igible and receive Pell grants. Combined, our minority-serving institutions serve nearly 6 million students, which is about one-quarter of all undergraduate students in the country. The \$255 million in annual mandatory funding of these institutions accounts for nearly half of all Federal funding for these institutions.

Unfortunately, the mandatory funding expired more than a month ago on September 30 because of inaction by the Senate—inaction by the Senate; the House has acted—and that jeopardizes the future of these colleges, particularly the students they serve.

The FUTURE Act, which I cosponsored with Senator DOUG JONES and Senator TIM SCOTT, extends this mandatory funding for all minority-serving institutions for 2 years. The bill is bipartisan. The bill has the support of the White House. It is fully paid for, and it is budget neutral. There are no budget gimmicks involved. Yet we are not able to take up the bill for a reason I don't understand.

Let me talk about HBCUs in Virginia because we have five: Virginia Union University, which is in my neighborhood where I live in Richmond; Virginia State University in Ettrick, south of Richmond; Hampton University in Hampton, VA; Norfolk State in Norfolk; and Virginia University of Lynchburg. These five institutions received almost \$50 million in this annual mandated funding over the last 10 years.

Norfolk State University's president, Dr. Adams-Gaston, said that if the FUTURE Act is not passed, "Norfolk State's educational programs in both teacher preparation and the STEM fields will be put at risk at a time when we are working to increase diversity in the front of our classrooms, and grow the pipeline of diverse STEM graduates to fill the jobs of the new economy."

Virginia State University uses its funding to keep student-faculty ratios low, to provide distance education programs, to support curricular updates, faculty training, and technology enhancement, especially for social work, computer science, nursing, and education degree programs. It also uses the funds to prepare and support students to attend graduate or professional schools and to award scholarships to deserving students.

Virginia Union University is in my neighborhood. Yesterday, Jaylynn Hodges, who is a junior biology major at Union, was in the Senate. She spoke about the impact of title III funds and its impact on her own education. Jaylynn wants to pursue a career in medicine, and fortunately Virginia Union uses the funds on neuroscience and chemistry laboratories, where Jaylynn has been able to develop her technical and analytical skills.

Virginia Union also uses funding for technology resources, workforce development programs in STEM and future careers, academic support services, such as academic counseling, updates

to historic buildings, and hiring faculty. Without passing the FUTURE Act, all of these programs are in serious jeopardy.

The HBCUs serve as strong economic drivers and generate significant economic returns year after year in Virginia's communities. I have also had the good fortune to be on HBCU campuses in Florida, and I know they have the same impact within their communities and with students and in the entire State as those in Virginia. The UNCF—the United Negro College Fund—found that, in Virginia alone, the direct economic impact of our five HBCUs is more than \$913 million.

It is not just the impact on the Commonwealth that matters but the impact these institutions have on individual students. In one more quote, the current student body president at Norfolk State University, Linei Woodson, expressed:

Norfolk State University's supportive and culturally aware learning environment helped me to grow as a leader and put me on a path to success. I would likely not have had these opportunities at other schools. All students regardless of their socio-economic background deserve access to quality higher education and the opportunity to realize their full potential.

In closing, the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, which was named after the titanic civil rights leader and Supreme Court Justice—on a personal note, I was proud to have Thurgood Marshall's son John Marshall serve as my secretary of public safety when I was Governor—wrote a letter to Senate leadership. It read that even in the week since this program expired, which was at the end of September, campuses have already notified employees that their positions and programs might be terminated as of September 30, 2020, if not sooner. In the letter, it is noted: "These are real jobs, held by people who interact with students every day, in programs that play a critical role in graduating and retaining students in the STEM fields, among other disciplines."

As a former Governor—and the Presiding Officer and I share that experience—I know that the budget-creating process begins well in advance of the budget's becoming effective. These minority-serving institutions, most of which do not have significant endowments, face unique fiscal challenges, and they count on this mandatory funding. Any uncertainty in the funding creates a significant planning challenge for them, and they run the risk of creating a financial nightmare for the students.

Today marks 51 days since the House passed the FUTURE Act unanimously—these days, it is hard to act unanimously on things in Congress, but this bill passed the House unanimously—and 38 days since funding lapsed for the schools in my State and for minority-serving institutions across the country. It is time for the Senate to pass the bipartisan FUTURE Act and pass it now. I urge my colleagues to join me in that endeavor.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). 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. Without objection it is so ordered.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, the Senator from Connecticut, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and I have come to a floor to offer a unanimous consent on a bill called the Affordable Prescriptions for Patients Act. We are in consultation with our colleagues on the other side that have another bill that they would also like to offer a unanimous consent request for, and we are going to talk and continue the conversation during these two upcoming votes to see if we can work out holds on their bill, and we certainly would consider to do that.

But Senator BLUMENTHAL and I do expect to offer a unanimous consent on our bill which would lower out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs, which is something I thought we were all for. But working in good faith with our colleagues to try to work through these two issues, we are going to give it a little bit of time, as long as we can get that done before we leave today.

I will just say there is no agreement to pair these. If they could pass sequentially, I have no objection to that, but just to say that it would be nice, at a time when we are so polarized here and have put the "dys" back in "dysfunction" here in Washington, DC, that we could actually show that we could work together in a bipartisan basis and pass a bill that passed unanimously in the Judiciary Committee, of which my friend from Illinois is a cosponsor.

I understand they want to use this opportunity to get their bill passed. Again, I have no objection to that and do not intend to object, but there are others who apparently have some concerns that we need to check with.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I would say that my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Texas, has accurately stated the situation, but let me add a few sentences about the bill that we are trying to couple with his effort. I totally support what he and Senator BLUMENTHAL are trying to do. The end goal we all have in mind is to bring under control or at least restrain the increases in prescription drug prices.

The Senators from Texas and Connecticut have their approach. What Senator GRASSLEY—a Republican from Iowa—and I have suggested with this approach is direct-to-consumer advertising. The pharmaceutical industry spends about \$6 billion a year on ads on television. If you have not seen a drug ad on television, you clearly do not own a TV.

We want to make sure that each one of these ads contain, amid all the other

information they give you, one other critical piece of information: the cost of the drug.

We think that will be at least an indication to the pharmaceutical industry that we are watching how much they are charging us. I think some people will be shocked when they see the actual cost of Humira and some other drugs. But that is it, a complementary approach. I hope we can do both. I think the American people want to see prescription drugs become more affordable.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON RUDOLFSKY NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Rudofsky nomination?

Mr. DURBIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

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 Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 350 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—41

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

NOT VOTING—8

Booker	Klobuchar	Warren
Harris	Perdue	Wyden
Isakson	Sanders	

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Democratic leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2755

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, it is now several weeks since the President asked our troops to leave a critical sector in northern Syria, and, subsequently, lots of things happened, including at least 100 and probably more ISIS prisoners escaping, an uncertainty as to who is guarding the prisons where ISIS prisoners are kept, and a whole strategy as to how to continue the fight against ISIS.

ISIS is not vanquished. ISIS is weakened but not vanquished, and we all know ISIS can come back. We all know a small group thousands of miles away can do untold damage in our homeland. Yet we still have no plan, that we have heard, from the administration on how are we dealing with ISIS; how are we dealing with the prisoners who escaped; how are we dealing with the prisoners who are still incarcerated; and how are we dealing with ISIS overall.

This is one of the greatest security threats America faces, and I would hope we could pass this proposal, which simply demands that the administration report to Congress on what their plan is to deal with ISIS. It is that simple. That is the immediate danger.

I know my friend, the Senator from Florida, wants to talk about what happened in the past. We can argue that all day long, but the immediate danger is ISIS, the ISIS prisoners who have escaped, the ISIS prisoners who are incarcerated, and the ISIS members who still are around. We don't have a strategy, and it is one of the greatest failings of foreign policy not only of this administration but of any administration.

A resolution passed the House a while ago. It has laid fallow here. All we are asking in this legislation is very simple: to require a report on the strategy to secure the enduring defeat of the Islamic State.

I hope we will not hear objection. I don't see how anyone could object when the security of America is at risk and when ISIS is still a danger. Every one of us could come up with an amendment to make it better. We know we will not get it done if that happens.

I hope we can move this forward, and then we can debate other issues that are not directly dispositive here because we have an immediate crisis, and we need a report.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent, as in legislative session, that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 281, S.

2755, a bill to require a report on the plan to secure the enduring defeat of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria; that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, reserving the right to object.

I thank the Democratic leader for his concerns about the defeat of ISIS. If there is one thing I hope we can all agree on, it is that Turkey is not our ally or friend right now. Turkey's invasion of Syria is benefiting ISIS, Iran, and Russia, and hurting our great ally, Israel.

The United States must stand up for our partners, the Kurds, who helped us fight ISIS. I am hopeful the ceasefire will last, keeping American soldiers and our partners, the Kurds, safe. Nobody wants our men and women in uniform involved in unnecessary, extended military conflicts.

Bringing our troops home is a goal we all share. In order to achieve that goal, we need to have a fuller understanding of the crisis in Syria and what got us there—with the hope our troops can finally come home.

I also agree that the President should always be clear with Congress on where all U.S. troops are located and the purpose of their deployment. Unfortunately, my colleague's proposal would produce a report that only tells a small part of the story.

In the name of transparency and a fuller understanding of how we got here, I am proposing a modification to my colleague's bill to require a report that includes information on President Obama's plan for Syria.

We didn't get here overnight. The Democratic leader knows that. He said himself it took us 5 years to get here. So I think we all would like to see what the strategy—or lack of strategy—was from the last administration that put us in this position today. Let's get all the facts on the table so lawmakers in Congress and Americans all across the country can have all the information we need to keep Americans and our allies safe.

Reserving the right to object, therefore, I ask that the Democratic leader modify his request to include my amendment, which is at the desk. I further ask that the amendment be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Democratic leader so modify his request?

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, this is a diversion. We can all debate history. Maybe Bush was to blame. Maybe Obama was to blame. Who knows. Maybe Harry Truman was to

blame when they set up CENTO. That is something we can debate at a later time.

We have an immediate crisis. We need a report, and our Republican colleagues keep finding ways so they can object so the President doesn't have to answer. That is wrong. It risks the security of America, and it is not what we should be doing.

So I object, and I urge us to pass the amendment without the modification, which is still as valid as it was a few minutes ago.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard on the modification.

Is there objection to the original request?

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, reserving the right to object. I am disappointed in yet another political stunt from the Democratic leader. It is clear this is nothing but a political attack on the President.

President Trump's goal is to bring American troops home and keep our partners, the Kurds, safe and our ally, Israel, secure. The Democratic leader is requesting information from President Trump but refuses to join me in asking for information about the sequence of events and the strategy under President Obama that led us to this point.

This is sad, but it is not surprising. It is just another charade in a long list of political games. Americans deserve a safe Israel and a safe Syria, so I stand today to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, if they are worried about an attack, it is not on this President or a previous President. That is the political stunt here, I would say to my friend in Florida. He knows what he is doing. He is trying to stop this from happening. The attack we are worried about is an attack by ISIS on the United States.

Whether you are a Democrat, Republican, liberal, or conservative, the country needs a plan. All of the diversion, all of the games will not prevent the American people from seeing that we need that, and it is our job as Senators to push the administration to do it.

So I would have hoped we could have passed this amendment without the diversionary, partisan proposal made by the Senator from Florida. I am sorry we haven't been able to move the amendment. It is so wrong for the safety of this country.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jennifer Philpott Wilson, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Philpott Wilson nomination?

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 88, nays 3, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 351 Ex.]

YEAS—88

Alexander	Fischer	Reed
Baldwin	Gardner	Risch
Barrasso	Graham	Roberts
Bennet	Grassley	Romney
Blackburn	Hassan	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hawley	Rounds
Blunt	Heinrich	Rubio
Boozman	Hoeben	Sasse
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Brown	Inhofe	Schumer
Burr	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cantwell	Jones	Scott (SC)
Capito	Kaine	Shaheen
Carper	Kennedy	Shelby
Casey	King	Sinema
Cassidy	Lankford	Smith
Collins	Leahy	Stabenow
Coons	Lee	Sullivan
Cornyn	Manchin	Tester
Cortez Masto	McConnell	Thune
Cotton	McSally	Tillis
Cramer	Menendez	Toomey
Crapo	Merkley	Udall
Cruz	Moran	Van Hollen
Daines	Murkowski	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murray	Wicker
Enzi	Paul	Young
Ernst	Peters	
Feinstein	Portman	

NAYS—3

Gillibrand	Hirono	Markey
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NOT VOTING—9

Booker	Isakson	Sanders
Cardin	Klobuchar	Warren
Harris	Perdue	Wyden

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of William Joseph Nardini, of Connecticut, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 1994

Mr. TOOMEY. Madam President, I rise this afternoon to offer a path forward on the SECURE Act—the way that I think we could actually do some legislating around here and pass a constructive bill.

A little brief history, I think, is in order and helpful for context. About 3 years ago, the Senate Finance Committee passed a reasonably similar legislation out of committee unanimously. It was never considered on the Senate floor. The House took up some of these ideas and passed their own legislation.

My own view is that most of the substance of this legislation is very constructive. Most of what it does is it makes it easier for middle-class families to save for their retirement. That is constructive. However, the bill that came over from the House is different from the bill that came out of the Senate Finance Committee and was never considered on the Senate floor. The House bill dropped a number of provisions that had bipartisan support. They added some provisions that had never been vetted by anybody on the Senate side, at least not in a procedural way.

There is a proper way to resolve these kinds of differences, and that is to put this bill on the Senate floor, open it up for amendments, and allow the Senate to work its will. The Senate will almost certainly pass some version—probably very similar to the House bill—and then we can iron out whatever little differences there are.

This is the way we legislate. That is what I am suggesting we do today. To do otherwise would be to treat this body as just a rubberstamp for the House, and that is not the purpose of having two legislative bodies.

I should also note that our Democratic colleagues have frequently criticized Republican leadership and the Republican majority for not legislating. Sometimes they have a point. The minority leader has said that the Senate is a legislative graveyard. He has criticized Leader MCCONNELL for not putting bills on the floor and at one point Senator SCHUMER said:

We want to debate these other issues. . . . We are not saying our Republican friends are going to think exactly as we do, but let's have a debate and vote.

I couldn't agree more. I think we should have a debate. I think we should have a series of votes. I think we could bang this out in a day, at the end of which we would pass the SECURE Act, preferably after considering amendments from both sides. That is what I am proposing. In fact, we have been proposing this for weeks.

We have shared with our Democratic colleagues several amendments that the Republican Senators would like to offer. One is mine. I have other colleagues who would like to offer them. We have been asking our Democratic colleagues for their list of amend-

ments. What things would they like to do? What amendments would they like to consider? We have restricted our amendments to those which affect the Tax Code. We have suggested that they do likewise.

Amazingly, to me, we haven't heard a single suggestion yet from our Democratic colleagues. It is amazing because I have heard plenty of criticism about our Tax Code from our Democratic friends, including criticism about the limitation we put on State and local tax deductions. I know there are Democratic colleagues who would like to extend the electric vehicle credit. There are some who have proposed new taxes on wealth. Chairman WYDEN has a proposal to put a tax on unrealized market-to-market gains on assets. There is a long list of ideas we have heard from the other side.

This is the opportunity to have some votes and find out whether there is support and to what extent there is support for these things. On our side, we are willing to vote. Every Republican Senator is in favor of this proposal that I am going to suggest in a few moments, whereby we would have specific amendments on our side and allow the Democrats to have an equal number on their side. I don't know what could be more reasonable than this approach.

Quickly, my amendment fixes a technical drafting error in our tax reform. It is called the QIP. It is the acronym that is used for it. It stands for "qualified improvement property."

Here is the problem. Due to a drafting error, businesses are now forced to recognize the cost of improvements over a long period of time rather than to expense them in the years in which the expenses occurred. It was a drafting error. Everybody acknowledges it was a drafting error and was unintended.

Thirteen of my Democratic colleagues are cosponsors of my legislation to fix this, and every Republican Senator supports fixing this error. Those are 66 Senators right there. I am not asking for a guaranteed outcome. I am just asking for a vote. Let's have a vote on it. I have other colleagues who would also like to have votes on their amendments. As I said, our proposal is that the Democrats pick an equal number of items that are important to them, and let's have votes on those. It would look a lot like legislating. It would be good to get back to legislating. In a moment, I am going to make a unanimous consent request to do exactly that.

Before I do, I yield the floor to my colleague from Texas, Senator CRUZ, for his thoughts on this.

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I thank the Senator from Pennsylvania for his leadership on this issue.

I think Senator TOOMEY's proposal is an eminently reasonable, commonsense proposal in that we take up the SECURE Act with an equal number of amendments from the Republicans and

the Democrats and that we vote on the amendments on the Senate floor.

Now, everyone expects, in a few minutes, we are going to see the Democrats stand up and object to that proposal and say: No, we don't want amendments. We are not willing to vote on amendments. We are going to see the Democrats hold the SECURE Act hostage because they are unwilling to vote on amendments. We are going to see the Democrats hold hostage bipartisan reform that would improve retirement savings and also hold hostage tax relief for Gold Star families that should have passed a long time ago. It is cynical for the Democrats to hold this hostage, but because they are afraid to vote, they are getting ready to object and say that Gold Star families don't get their tax relief. The Democrats are afraid to have a vote in this body, and they are willing to hold the Gold Star families hostage.

One of the proposals they are afraid to vote on is that of commonsense education reform that has bipartisan support. It concerns what are called 529 savings plans, which are immensely popular tax advantage savings plans. Over 18 million Americans use them right now. The vast majority of those who use 529 savings plans are middle-class Americans. What 529 savings plans allow is for parents and grandparents to save for the educational expenses of their kids.

In 2017, as part of the tax reform, I introduced an amendment to expand 529 savings plans not just to college but to K-12 education. The Senate took up that amendment, and it became the only amendment the Senate adopted on the floor of the Senate that added anything to the tax cut. It passed this body at about 1 o'clock in the morning, by a 50-50 vote, with the Vice President's having broken the tie.

It has become the most far-reaching and significant Federal school choice legislation that has ever been enacted, benefiting up to 50 million school kids across this country. That legislation is already done, and it is actually not what this fight is about. That fight was about expanding 529s to K-12 education. The American people won that fight, and the Democratic opposition lost that fight.

This amendment is, instead, a much more modest amendment that takes 529 savings plans and expands them to three groups of people.

No. 1, it allows the parents and grandparents of kids with disabilities to use 529s to save for educational therapies for kids with disabilities and to save for the additional assistance those kids with disabilities need. That is an eminently commonsense proposition.

No. 2, it allows homeschooling families to participate in 529 savings plans. In 2017, the Democrats cruelly carved out of 529s both kids with disabilities and homeschooling families. There is no reason kids with disabilities should

be discriminated against by the Democrats in this body, and there is no reason homeschooling families should be discriminated against by the Democrats in this body.

The third group of people it benefits is that of public school students. What this amendment says is that the parents and grandparents who have kids in public schools can use 529s to pay for additional educational expenses. That means they can use 529s to pay for standardized test preparation. That means they can use 529s to pay for tutoring costs or whatever additional educational expenses they have above and beyond their public schooling. This would potentially benefit every child in public school today.

We may see the Democrats suggest that voting on this is somehow partisan or divisive. The nice thing is that we know as an absolute fact that it is not. Why do we know that? My amendment is for the expanding of 529s for kids with disabilities, for homeschoolers, and for public school students.

My amendment was taken up in the House Ways and Means Committee, and it was adopted in the House Ways and Means Committee—and this is important—unanimously. That means every single Republican on Ways and Means voted for it and that every single Democrat on Ways and Means voted for it. The Democratic chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee voted for this 529 reform. It was unanimous, bipartisan, commonsense reform. Unfortunately, what happened after that is, when the bill left Ways and Means and went to the House floor, some political leaders and teachers unions got upset, and Speaker PELOSI essentially did a drive-by shooting and, on the floor, took the provision out.

Here is the part that is particularly ironic. Do you know the single biggest monetary beneficiary of the 529 reform for which I am asking for a vote? The single biggest monetary beneficiary would be the public schoolteachers. Why is that? It would allow public school students and their parents to have 529 savings accounts in order to pay for tutoring. Who do you think those parents are going to hire to tutor their kids in public school? They are going to hire other public schoolteachers. We are literally talking about millions of dollars for public schoolteachers that you are about to see the Democrats block.

I would speak to the members of the press corps. Just once, I would like to see the press corps ask a Democrat: Why are you blocking relief for children with disabilities and their parents? Why are you discriminating against homeschooled kids, and why are you hurting public schoolteachers and stopping public school students from being able to get tutoring and test preparation?

It is worth noting that Senator TOOMEY's proposal is not even that this proposal be adopted. It is simply that

we vote on it. Yet the cynicism of today's Democratic Party is such that we are about to see them object to even having a vote. That is unfortunate and it is wrong.

I say let's go back to the bipartisan proposal for which every single Democrat on the House Ways and Means voted and every single Republican. Let's work together, and let's actually serve the people who elected us.

I yield to the Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. TOOMEY. Madam President, I yield to the Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I thank my colleague.

I agree with him. As both my colleagues here know and as my friends across the aisle know, I strongly support the underlying legislation.

I think the legislation is needed right now. Unbelievably, if you are in a small business, less than 50 percent of the workers have access to retirement plans. Two-thirds of Americans think they will be in trouble in retirement because they will not have enough money to take care of their retirements. Do you know what? They are right to be worried, for we have a huge problem in this country, and that is what the underlying bill addresses. It helps small businesses in their ability to offer plans, which is where most of the problem is in terms of there being a lack of retirement savings and the peace of mind in retirement that all of our constituents want.

The problem is that the legislation that came over from the House was never considered here on the Senate floor. In fact, if you go back to 2016, when it was last considered, it was by the Committee on Finance. So I think it is reasonable to say, yes, this underlying bill is good, and I strongly support it, but let's have a little debate here on the floor. We shouldn't be afraid of that.

Let me make a point. I support what my colleague from Pennsylvania talked about in terms of the qualified improvement property, and I support what my colleague from Texas said in terms of the 529 plans. Yet we are not asking our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to support these amendments. I don't have an amendment in the mix, and we are not asking them to support any of these amendments.

All we are asking is for them to allow for a process by which we can have a vote on their amendments, whatever they are, that relate to retirement and to tax policy—because this is a vehicle through which we can talk about tax policy—and to vote on our provisions that my colleague from Pennsylvania has laid out. Then let's see what happens. That is how we are supposed to operate around here. This is supposed to be the world's greatest deliberative body, and sometimes we find ourselves so tied up in knots that we can't deliberate. We are just asking for deliberation.

My hope is that this will work today—that we will actually open up

this process and allow for a vote on the SECURE Act, which is so important. It came out of the House with a vote of 417 to 3. What an incredibly bipartisan vote that was. Let's have a little discussion on the floor about retirement policy and about tax policy. Let's vote and let the chips fall where they may. Then let's actually send a bill to the President that will help the people whom we all represent.

Mr. TOOMEY. Madam President, in reclaiming my time, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1994, the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act of 2019, the SECURE Act, which is at the desk.

I further ask that there be a period of general debate on the bill to be limited to 10 hours, equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, and that following the use or yielding back of that time, the only amendments in order on the Republican side be the amendments to be offered by Senators TOOMEY, LEE, BURR, BRAUN, and CRUZ or their designees, the texts of which are at the desk, and five amendments that propose changes to the Internal Revenue Code to be determined by the Democratic leader, with the concurrence of the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Finance.

I further ask that debate on each amendment be limited to 30 minutes, equally divided between proponents and opponents, and that each amendment, unless it would be considered germane postcloture, be subject to an affirmative 60-vote threshold and that following the use or yielding back of time on each amendment, the Senate proceed to a vote on each amendment.

Finally, I ask that following the disposition of those specified amendments, the bill, as amended, if amended, be read a third time and that the Senate vote on the passage of the bill, as amended, if amended, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). Is there objection?

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, in reserving the right to object, earlier this year, the House passed the SECURE Act—a bipartisan package—in a nearly unanimous vote of 417 to 3. This bill has overwhelming bipartisan support, and it takes many good steps toward improving retirement security for families across our country. It would help Gold Star families, small businesses, long-term and part-time workers, and more.

With families in our country, nationwide, in the middle of a retirement crisis, we should take the opportunity we have right here in front of us today to offer them some relief as soon as possible.

This bill, the SECURE Act, has wide bipartisan support here in the Senate,

IMPEACHMENT

and Democrats are ready to pass it today as is. But now we have a few Republican Senators who want to sidetrack it with last-minute amendments, including proposals that are not in the interest of working families and will kill any chance this bill has of becoming law. For example, one of the amendments strips out an important provision the House made sure to include, while another one tries to jam back in a proposal that the House took out before it passed it so it could pass by an overwhelming margin.

Well, let me be clear. Democrats don't think families relying on this relief should have to wait while Republicans try to chip away at it. We want to pass this bill today as it is, which is why I would like to ask the Senator from Pennsylvania to modify his unanimous consent request; that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1994, which is at the desk, the SECURE Act, the bipartisan House bill; and that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator from Pennsylvania so modify his request?

Mr. TOOMEY. Madam President, reserving the right to object, I just will say briefly that this is very disappointing. What we are hearing from our Democratic colleagues is that the Senate is supposed to be a rubberstamp for what the House has done. We are not supposed to consider and deliberate ourselves as a body. We are not supposed to, apparently, entertain amendments—equal numbers from both sides—to attempt to reflect our constituents' interests and get to a legislative solution that would inevitably have broad bipartisan support. I am very disappointed.

Of course, I would reiterate, no Republican has ever asked for a guaranteed outcome on any amendment. All we are asking for is a vote, and apparently that is asking too much, according to our Democratic colleagues. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Is there an objection to the original request?

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, it is very disappointing on this side that there is an objection to this bill that addresses so many important issues. It has broad bipartisan support. Instead of working to pass this bill in front of us today, some Senators have focused on tacking on amendments that don't help families and do not make this a better bill; therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Pennsylvania.

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

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

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I rise today to discuss the impeachment inquiry currently underway in the House.

First, I want to recognize the courageous public servants who have testified in the House in recent weeks in defense of U.S. national security and in defense of the rule of law and our democratic institutions. I will cite just four: Lieutenant Colonel Vindman, Ambassador Yovanovitch, Ambassador Taylor, and Ambassador McKinley.

Despite the two decades of military service by Lieutenant Colonel Vindman and the Purple Heart he earned for his sacrifice for our country in Iraq, his character has faced brutal attacks from cable news and from some current and former Members of Congress.

As former U.S. Ambassador to Russia Michael McFaul put it in a Washington Post column last week, "Such smear tactics are revolting and un-American. [Lt. Col.] Vindman has served our country with honor and distinction, both on and off the battlefield. . . . And he is a patriot—as you would expect from someone with his outstanding resume."

So said former Ambassador McFaul, and I agree with him. I think most Americans would agree with him.

Lieutenant Colonel Vindman is just one of the many brave patriots who have testified as part of this impeachment inquiry.

Ambassador Yovanovitch has dedicated over 30 years to U.S. foreign service. She has rightfully earned the respect and credibility that she has within the U.S. national security community for her anti-corruption efforts in Ukraine and for her unwavering commitment to U.S. national security interests.

Ambassador McKinley has served this country as Senior Advisor to the Secretary of State and Ambassador to Brazil, Afghanistan, Colombia, and Peru. He has demonstrated fierce loyalty to his colleagues in the State Department and to the United States itself.

Ambassador Taylor's life has been marked by his service to our Nation, from West Point to the 101st Airborne in Vietnam, to his work as Ambassador to Ukraine and other significant foreign policy roles.

We should all be inspired by these and countless other public servants who work to protect and serve the United States every day. When I reflect upon their service to our country and their integrity, I am reminded of one of the lines from "America the Beautiful": "Oh, beautiful for patriot dream That sees beyond the years." That is what these patriots are doing—trying to understand and deliberate about what their actions should be now that will help America over time, to see beyond the years. That is part of the dream of a patriot, and these individuals have demonstrated that. They have a care and a concern about our institutions, our government, our democ-

racy, our Constitution, and, of course, a concern about what their actions mean for the future.

Over the past week, the House committees leading the impeachment inquiry regarding President Trump's, in my judgment, abuse of power have publicly released the first full transcripts from several of their interviews with State officials and diplomats. The transcripts explain in rich detail how the President employed Rudy Giuliani, his personal attorney, to manage a shadow diplomacy agenda focused on personal vendettas and unfounded—and that is an understatement—conspiracy theories in Ukraine.

Ambassador Yovanovitch testified that there was a "concerted campaign" to have her removed as Ambassador to Ukraine and repeatedly discussed the threatening and bullying behavior of the President and Mr. Giuliani because of her disagreements with Mr. Giuliani. The Ambassador explained that a senior Ukrainian official expressed significant concerns regarding Mr. Giuliani's behavior and told the Ambassador that she "really needed to watch her back."

When asked whether she felt threatened after President Trump told the Ukrainian President that she was "going to go through some things," Ambassador Yovanovitch responded unequivocally "yes," meaning yes, she felt threatened.

And she indicated some of her friends were "very concerned" about her personal safety.

Just imagine that. Imagine that. A U.S. Ambassador concerned about what would happen to her next. Even those around her were concerned about her personal safety because of what a President was saying and doing—and those around him.

Later in her testimony, Ambassador Yovanovitch discussed the influence of Rudy Giuliani in Ukraine. When asked whether anyone at the State Department tried to stop Giuliani's efforts, she explained as follows:

I don't think so. I don't think they felt they could.

Now, let's turn to Ambassador Taylor. He described similar concerns about Mr. Giuliani. Referencing the investigations President Trump wanted Ukraine to pursue into his political opponent—in this case, former Vice President Joe Biden—Ambassador Taylor described that the "irregular channel" of Ukraine policy directed by Mr. Giuliani was focused on "one or two specific cases, irrespective of whether it helped solve the corruption problem" in Ukraine.

Ambassador Taylor further explained that it was his "clear understanding" that "security assistance money" for Ukraine would not be delivered until President Zelensky "committed to pursue the investigation."

Ambassador McKinley, a former senior adviser to Secretary of State Pompeo, confirmed that he resigned because of his concerns about the President's shadow diplomacy efforts

with Mr. Giuliani. When the chairman asked Mr. MCKINLEY whether he resigned in part because of efforts to use the State Department to dig up dirt on a political opponent, Mr. MCKINLEY responded:

That is fair. And if I can underscore, in 37 years in the Foreign Service and different parts of the globe and working on many controversial issues, working 10 years back in Washington, I had never seen that.

As the Washington Post reported on September 21, the President's behavior related to this Ukraine matter has revealed—in the opinion of this journalist at the Post, a reporter who has covered the President very closely—No. 1, “a President convinced of his own invincibility—apparently willing and even eager to wield the vast powers of the United States to taint a political foe and confident that no one could hold him back.”

Let me move to the whistleblower protections. Armed with this sense of invincibility, the President has directed some of his most pointed criticisms at the brave whistleblower who came forward to expose the President's call with the Ukrainian President.

On Twitter, the President has demanded to meet the whistleblower face-to-face, despite laws that clearly protect the whistleblower's right to anonymity.

Just the other day, the whistleblower's attorney confirmed that his client offered to answer written questions under oath from House Republicans as long as the questions did not compromise the individual's identity.

House Republicans immediately denounced the offer, and the President tweeted that “[w]ritten answers are not acceptable,” despite the fact that President Trump refused—refused to be interviewed by Special Counsel Mueller's team and only answered written questions during the special counsel's investigation into election interference.

Despite his own unwillingness to answer live questioning, the President has persisted in his desire to “out” the whistleblower by tweeting that “we must determine the Whistleblower's identity” and arguing that the press would be “doing the public a service” if it outed the whistleblower.

Nothing—nothing the President has done or said in his more than 2½ years as President convinces me that he has any understanding of public service or doing the public a service, depending on how you look at it.

President Trump has even demanded to know who provided the information to the whistleblower and suggested that the source was “a spy” who would have been executed “in the old days.”

These comments follow the testimony of Acting Director of National Intelligence Joseph Maguire—a former Navy SEAL with 36 years of military experience and a Presidential Appointee—before the House of Representatives in September.

Mr. Maguire said the following:

[W]e must protect those who demonstrate courage to report alleged wrongdoing. . . . The Inspector General is properly protecting the complainant's identity and will not permit the complainant to be subject to any retaliation or adverse consequences for communicating the complaint to the Inspector General.

Yesterday, in floor remarks, the junior Senator from Kentucky compared the whistleblower to Edward Snowden and argued that the current concerns about the safety of the whistleblower are nothing more than “selective outrage.”

To be clear, Edward Snowden broke the law. He abused his security clearance and position of trust to leak classified information to the press. He sought safe haven in Russia, and we are unaware of any other information he may have shared that could further jeopardize national security.

The current whistleblower has strictly followed the appropriate channels of reporting, as confirmed by Director Maguire, and the individual deserves the full protection under the law.

The Senator from Kentucky referenced Edward Snowden in a conversation about blowing the whistle on President Trump's abuse of power. I hope that anyone would not make a comparison between the two cases. Threatening a witness or retaliating against a whistleblower is illegal. We know that. The President's public attacks on the whistleblower only add to the record of impeachable conduct.

His careless and extreme rhetoric not only places the whistleblower's personal safety in jeopardy, it undermines the entire whistleblower program of the intelligence community and across the government.

The intelligence community and Congress must continue to do all we can to protect the current whistleblower's identity and personal safety. The current legal protections for whistleblowers are insufficient to fully protect those who are courageous enough to come forward and report wrongdoing.

Of course, the reason we need the additional protections is the President's conduct in threatening the whistleblower. No other President has ever done this.

Congress must consider more ways to protect whistleblowers, including criminalizing the disclosure of the whistleblower's identity. It should be clear that should be a crime, if the statutes do not provide for it now.

We must use this experience to ensure that whistleblowers will be protected from threatening rhetoric and from actions by a President or any other public official meant to intimidate whistleblowers. If you are threatening a whistleblower, if you are trying to “out” them, that is always—always wrong. We do not have to worry about whether a specific statutory provision made it a crime. It is always wrong. Until this President, that was well understood by people in both parties, both Houses, and both branches.

This inquiry is not simply about President Trump's clear abuse of power. This inquiry is about our democracy and the values our Founders agreed should guide our Nation.

We owe the whistleblower, Lt. Col. Vindman, Ambassadors Yovanovitch, Taylor, and McKinley, as well as others, our deepest gratitude and our appreciation for their integrity and commitment to American values. They are real American heroes who, despite the President's bullying and harassment, have stood up in defense of our democratic institutions and the values the Founders fought to guide our Nation.

I yield the floor.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote scheduled for 1:45 p.m. start at this time.

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

VOTE ON NARDINI NOMINATION

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

Ms. COLLINS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KENNEDY). Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) would have voted “Yea” and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) would have voted “Yea”.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote or change their vote?

The result was announced—yeas 86, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 352 Ex.]

YEAS—86

Alexander	Collins	Gardner
Baldwin	Coons	Graham
Barrasso	Cornyn	Grassley
Bennet	Cortez Masto	Hassan
Blackburn	Cotton	Hawley
Blumenthal	Cramer	Heinrich
Blunt	Crapo	Hirono
Boozman	Cruz	Hoehn
Brown	Daines	Hyde-Smith
Burr	Duckworth	Inhofe
Cantwell	Durbin	Johnson
Capito	Enzi	Jones
Carper	Ernst	Kaine
Casey	Feinstein	Kennedy
Cassidy	Fischer	King

Lankford	Risch	Smith
Leahy	Roberts	Stabenow
Lee	Romney	Sullivan
Manchin	Rosen	Tester
McConnell	Rounds	Thune
McSally	Rubio	Tillis
Merkley	Sasse	Toomey
Murkowski	Schatz	Udall
Murphy	Schumer	Van Hollen
Murray	Scott (FL)	Warner
Paul	Scott (SC)	Whitehouse
Peters	Shaheen	Wicker
Portman	Shelby	Young
Reed	Sinema	

NAYS—2

Gillibrand

Markey

NOT VOTING—12

Booker	Isakson	Perdue
Braun	Klobuchar	Sanders
Cardin	Menendez	Warren
Harris	Moran	Wyden

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action with respect to the nominations confirmed here in today's session of the Senate.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 387.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Chad F. Wolf, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans, Department of Homeland Security. (New Position)

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Chad F. Wolf, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans, Department of Homeland Security. (New Position)

Mitch McConnell, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Rounds, Rick Scott, John Barrasso,

Kevin Cramer, Richard Burr, Steve Daines, James E. Risch, John Cornyn, John Boozman, John Hoeven, James Lankford, Todd Young, David Perdue, John Thune, Lamar Alexander.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 486.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Steven J. Menashi, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Steven J. Menashi, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, John Hoeven, Steve Daines, James E. Risch, Roger F. Wicker, Pat Roberts, John Thune, Mike Rounds, Roy Blunt, Mike Crapo, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Lindsey Graham, Thom Tillis, David Perdue, Chuck Grassley, Rick Scott.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions be waived.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motions ripen at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 12.

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

The Senator from Ohio.

BARKER HOUSE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to talk about something positive that is happening in Ohio with the help of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Army Corps is involved with some civic-minded community volunteers in something that will help pre-

serve our history in Ohio. It wouldn't be happening but for the vision of the head of the Army Corps, Mr. R.D. James, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. It is a good-news project regarding the preservation of an important piece of the history of the Northwest Territory and my home State of Ohio. It is called the Barker House. It is a historic home that dates back almost 200 years. It was built by the owner's father, who was a Revolutionary War officer and a famous early settler and pioneer architect in Ohio. A number of historic homes of his were built along the Ohio River, and this is one of them that is still left standing. Colonel Joseph Barker, Sr., was his name, and he is one of our most famous early pioneers in Ohio.

The House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979 for its historic significance. In fact, Joseph Barker, Sr., and the houses he built play an important role in a new, award-winning book by the great historian David McCullough, "The Pioneers," and it tells the story of the Northwest Territory and the founding of Ohio in the wake of the Revolutionary War. In "The Pioneers" book, Colonel Barker's stately homes were an anomaly out on the frontier. His own home was described as "a large, brick house in the Federal style, with a handsome front door, flanked by recessed side windows and an elliptical fanlight overhead. . . . [O]nce completed the whole house was painted white, and soon became, as intended, a 'distinguished seat of hospitality.'"

This also describes the historic Barker House we are trying to preserve.

These houses brought a level of architectural refinement that stood in sharp contrast to the log cabins on the rugged landscape where these pioneers were settling.

The Barker House is currently owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It is owned by them because it sits right next to the Willow Island Locks and Dam on the Ohio River. The house was used as office space by the Corps back in the 1960s, and today, the house is still standing. It is vacant, in bad shape, and unsafe to enter, but it is savable.

I visited this historic Barker House back in September of 2018. I learned then that the Corps was proposing to demolish the Barker House. They then considered a proposal to move it brick by brick to a new location off of Army Corps' land. Neither made sense.

That is when I met Jack Haessly, who led a group—along with Wesley Clarke, Bill Reynolds, Bob Ferguson, and others—a local Barker House friends group who said they would be willing to raise the money to restore this home on its historic site overlooking the Ohio River. They wanted to make sure it would be accessible to visitors there and made into a museum.

I immediately called the Secretary, Mr. R.D. James of the Army Corps, and

asked if he would reconsider the decision to demolish this historic home. After hearing the story of the house and the details of the group's plan to preserve it and after getting an assessment from the Army Corps, Mr. James agreed to reverse the Corps' decision and to work with us on preserving the home. He deserves great credit for that.

Congressman BILL JOHNSON, who represents the area, has also been an excellent partner in pursuing these sensible solutions.

Right now, we are working on developing legislation that I hope to introduce soon to convey the house and the surrounding land to the friends group. We have made a lot of progress so far. Just last week, the Corps completed drawings of the specific parcel proposed to be conveyed, which also includes the creation of an access road so that the house can be visited and enjoyed by the public. We appreciate the Ohio Department of Transportation and Director Jack Marchbanks for working with us on the road access. The road access issue was critical, and ODOT was very helpful. The Ohio State Historic Preservation Office has also jumped in and played a constructive role.

This is an example of a true public-private partnership, made possible by Secretary James. I want to thank him, the Army Corps, his team, the Barker House friends group, the Ohio Historic Preservation Office, and ODOT. All of them are partnering with us to ensure that this historic structure remains standing so it can tell the story of our rich history for generations to come.

S. 1431

Mr. President, I am on the Senate floor today to talk about the opportunity we have here in Congress to make substantial reforms to address an issue that keeps a lot of Americans up at night, and that is whether they are going to have enough money in their retirement.

I chair the Finance subcommittee that handles retirement and pension issues, and I have worked to pass bipartisan legislation with then-Congressman BEN CARDIN, now-Senator BEN CARDIN, over the years. That legislation has helped people save more in their IRAs and 401(k)s and other retirement plans, but we still have a long way to go. In fact, according to a recent study by Northwestern Mutual, two-thirds of Americans believe they will outlive their retirement savings. People are right to be worried.

Right now, way too many workers don't have access to a retirement plan at all, and too many Americans who do have a plan are not saving enough. Fewer than half of the employees at businesses with fewer than 50 workers have access to a plan, and only 34 percent of them participate. That is where the major problem is. These are workers at mom-and-pop shops, small manufacturers, and countless other employers who make up the backbone of our economy.

We can and should do more to make sure these small business employees are set up for retirement so that they can find peace of mind in their retirement. What is more, only 22 percent of part-time workers today have access to a plan—only 22 percent. More Americans can have access to a retirement plan just by our making some simple changes in law.

A lot of Americans that do have a plan haven't saved enough, so they are at risk of having their savings be inadequate for their increasing lifespans. People are living longer, so this is a bigger problem.

Social Security is absolutely essential. It is great that that safety net is there. It is necessary to cushion the retirement incomes for Americans. But the average payout from Social Security is 1,400 bucks a month. Try living on that. It is tough. A lot of people have a hard time with that, so they need these extra retirement savings.

The lack of adequate retirement savings is made worse by the fact that we have more and more baby boomers who are retiring, so we have a bigger group in this category. And people are living longer. That is a good thing, but it creates an additional challenge with regard to retirement savings.

For all these reasons, we need to overhaul the laws governing the private retirement system to help more people get access to workplace savings plans, encourage savings to help our economy overall, and make sure people don't outlive their savings in their retirement.

The good news is that we have that package before us right now here in the Senate. It would go a long way toward making these changes. It is called the SECURE Act, and it has already passed the House of Representatives 5½ months ago by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 417 to 3—that is right, 417 to 3. That never happens around here. This is totally bipartisan. It is one of these issues where we would have an opportunity to pass it and then send it directly to the President for his signature, and he has said he would sign it. We are divided on so many issues in Washington today, but this is one where we have a rare chance for a truly bipartisan solution to a problem that is affecting people in every single State represented in this body.

Today what was called a live UC was tried. It was an attempt to get a vote on the SECURE Act—this legislation I am talking about—with five amendments on each side. I support that, and I supported my colleagues today who came forward to offer that. The amendments they outlined as our five Republican amendments all make sense to me. Then the Democrats were told: You should offer five amendments also. You all pick them. Unfortunately, it was objected to by the other side. That didn't surprise me because for the past 5½ months, some of us have been trying to get this legislation done, and there are big concerns on both sides of

the aisle, but we are at a point now where we know, having raised this live UC, that we continue to have this stalemate. After 5½ months, I think it is time for us to move forward on these reforms.

Again, I like the amendments that were proposed today. As an example, I agree that allowing 529 plans to be used for homeschooling expenses makes sense. It is a reform Congress should take up, but this underlying bill that almost every Republican in the House supported, even without this provision, is one we also ought to take up. As difficult as it is for us to give up on amendments on both sides, if that can't be done because it gets blocked, then let's go ahead and move the underlying legislation, the SECURE Act.

It is a worthwhile piece of legislation. It helps in a category where we need help badly; that is, small businesses. They have an easier time setting up retirement plans under the SECURE Act because the bill increases tax credit for small businesses. In general, you get \$500 now for starting a retirement plan. That would be raised to \$5,000. That is a tenfold increase. Again, small businesses, where a major gap in retirement plans are found, say that would be a significant incentive for them to set up a retirement plan.

Second, it provides an annual tax credit to small businesses that introduce automatic enrollment features into their plan. Small business employees will have to opt out of saving for retirement as opposed to opting in. These autoenrollment features are fantastic. The average participation in a 401(k) in a midsize business is about 75 percent of the employees. If it is autoenrollment, where you automatically enroll unless you opt out, it is about 95 percent. This makes a lot of sense to me. That is an innovative change in this legislation.

Third, it streamlines a lot of the existing regulations associated with administering a plan so small business owners who already have a lot on their plates can have an easier time focusing on retirement for their employees rather than bureaucracy and redtape.

Perhaps most important to me, the bill allows small businesses to participate in what is called open MEPs—open multiple employer defined contribution plans. These are plans that allow businesses—some of these small businesses we talked about earlier—even if they are not in the same industry, they can come together to work together to set up a joint plan for their employees. That becomes much more effective for small businesses because they can share the administrative costs and share some of the liability expenses. It has a lot of benefits for these small employers and will result in more people I represent getting a retirement plan.

In all, the Joint Committee on Taxation estimates this reform alone would lead to 700,000 new retirement accounts for small business workers who need access.

In my experience, that security really works. I grew up in a small family business. My dad started his own business. When he had five employees and my mom was the bookkeeper, he said they were going to set up a retirement plan. It was called a profit-sharing plan at the time. It was before a 401(k). They had no profit the first few years, so it was a little awkward, but when they finally started making money, everybody had a stake. Everybody got a little bit in their retirement nest eggs. When 401(k)s came in, they immediately started a 401(k) plan as well.

I meet people today whom I have known my entire life who turned a wrench their whole careers as a lift truck technician—a lift truck mechanic—who have a retirement savings plan now because of that. They have a nice nest egg of about \$500,000 to \$600,000 that they were able to accumulate. So I know this works. I know small businesses have the opportunity to do more for their workers if we help them more here in Washington. I am committed to trying to get this done.

Another important part of the SECURE Act has to do with older Americans. It says we should raise the age limit that forces older American workers to start depleting and paying taxes on their retirement savings. Currently, at 70½ years old, you have to start taking money out of your retirement plan. You have to do that whether you are working or not. Many people at that age are still working. My dad was still working at 70½. It drove him crazy that he had to take money out while he was still working. He wanted to keep building it up. So in this legislation, we say let's expand that to age 72.

Then, as important, the bill actually lifts the current prohibition on IRA contributions by people over 70½. That means people can make the choice if they want to keep investing in their retirement for as long as they see fit. Remember, somebody who makes it to 70½ is likely to live into his or her nineties. So there is still a lot of time in retirement where you need to have that funding. That kind of flexibility is how we allow people to manage their own retirement savings that makes sense.

The SECURE Act is good for small businesses and good for older Americans, but the reforms don't end there. It has a number of other good provisions. In fact, one is particularly urgent. It reforms the pension nondiscrimination laws I authored alongside my friend Senator BEN CARDIN. Our legislation is very simple. It says we have a glitch right now in current law. We introduced it as separate legislation earlier this year, but it has now been made part of the SECURE Act. It is a critical piece of legislation to pass because if it doesn't pass—and pass soon, like by the end of this year—400,000-plus Americans are going to have their benefits frozen in their defined benefit plans. It will affect 400,000 people through no fault of their own.

In recent years, many companies have transitioned from the traditional defined benefit plans—think of that as a pension plan—to a defined contribution plan like a 401(k). Some of them have elected to grandfather existing employees by closing down their traditional DB plans but allowing those who are there to continue to have the benefits. Unfortunately, what happened is, as they build up seniority, one of the rules in our current testing under 401(k) and profit-sharing plans and defined benefit plans has come into effect. Inadvertently, it has resulted in these plans not being able to continue to approve benefits. It wasn't meant to work that way, but it has for a lot of these people who are in these plans. As a result, again, 400,000 autoworkers are at risk of losing their benefits through no fault of their own. Tens of thousands of other workers have already been affected by these flawed rules.

We have to fix this. We tried to pass this by unanimous consent this fall. This provision has no objection on the Republican side or the Democratic side. Yet we were not able to get it done because some would like to make it remain as part of the SECURE Act and be sure the SECURE Act gets passed. The way to do this is let's pass the whole thing. The SECURE Act makes sense. This particular provision is urgent. Let's not wait. Do it now to help those 400,000 Americans representing States all over the United States who are represented in this Chamber.

Let's pass the SECURE Act. It is a bill that does a lot to put us on the right path. Does it do everything? No.

Senator CARDIN and I introduced a comprehensive bill called the Retirement Security and Savings Act. We go further in a lot of these regards than we talked about today. That is a bill that requires more hearings and a markup and more consideration.

In the meantime, let's do what we can. Let's provide more certainty, more flexibility, and more retirement savings. I am hopeful we can pass this broader legislation I have with Senator CARDIN soon. In the meantime, let's take advantage of the chance right here in front of us. Let's be sure we boost the retirement security to the American people through the SECURE Act. I hope my colleagues will all join me in this, and we can pass this legislation as the House did—on a strong bipartisan basis—and get it to the President for his signature.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

(The remarks of Mr. MERKLEY pertaining to the introduction of S. 2817 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BRAUN). The Senator from Iowa.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, one of my top priorities has been to reauthorize

and modernize the Violence Against Women Act. A survivor myself, I recognize that VAWA provides the right resources to tackle head-on domestic violence and sexual abuse in our communities in Iowa and throughout the United States.

My good friend and colleague DIANNE FEINSTEIN, ranking member on the Judiciary Committee, agreed to work with me on this important topic. For months, Senator FEINSTEIN and I and our staffs have worked closely and in good faith with one another with this shared goal in mind. We have met numerous times, held discussions, and negotiated in a way that has produced real progress.

But just this week, after months of work and mountains of effort toward a bipartisan bill, it all came to a screeching halt. Once again, the Democrats are putting politics ahead of people and have decided to move forward on the House-passed VAWA bill. The House bill is a nonstarter and is chock-full of partisan political talking points that take us further away from rather than closer to a bill we can get over the finish line.

I am all too aware of how this town works. Election-year politics are in full swing, and the grim reality is Democrats cannot afford to be seen giving Republicans a win. The far-left agenda of the House has hijacked the process. It sounds petty and it sounds unbelievable, but, folks, that is the reality.

You would think that supporting survivors and preventing abuse would be placed ahead of petty politics.

I want to be clear. I remain hopeful that we can continue to work in a bipartisan way to get this law reauthorized.

Soon, I plan to respond with a good-faith proposal of my own. This bill will support survivors and hold abusers accountable. It is also a bill that I believe can pass the Senate and get the President's signature.

I invite my colleagues across the aisle to join me in this very, very important effort.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss an issue that I hear from families all across Michigan, the rising cost of prescription drugs. Recently, I held roundtables in several communities across Michigan to hear directly from families, local health providers, and medical professionals about the increasing cost of prescription drugs. I want to share a few of those stories.

I heard from Diane in Grand Rapids, whose son, Jared, suffered a severe asthma attack that tragically resulted in his death. He was just 25 years old. Diane said her son had insurance, but it was not enough and he tried stretching out usage of his asthma medication to deal with ever-rising costs. Diane shared just how unimaginable her pain was to lose her child to a condition

that should have been manageable, with affordable life-sustaining medications.

I heard from Rachael from Greenville who has three children with Type 1 diabetes, but insurance denied coverage for her children's insulin, making it simply unaffordable. So Rachael's family drove across the border into Canada where she said they were able to purchase insulin for \$71 per box, compared to about \$600 for the exact same insulin in Michigan. Rachael is rightfully angry that she needed to travel to another country simply to get her children the insulin they need to stay alive.

Sheron from Detroit told me about the financial challenges of treating sarcoidosis, a rare disease, while also fighting triple-negative breast cancer. Sheron said that insurance was going to charge her \$5,000 for medication she could easily take at home, but it would completely cover it only if she went to the hospital. The last thing Sheron wanted to do was trek to the hospital as she coped with the side effects of chemotherapy.

And I heard from Jeanette from Burton, who had a nearly \$500 co-pay for a prescription while undergoing treatment for thyroid cancer, but without the help of a charitable patient group, she could not afford the medication. While working to get assistance, she went without her medication and could have suffered serious complications.

Unfortunately, these are not isolated stories, and these are not isolated individuals. Too many Michiganders are struggling with rising prescription drug costs, and the consequences can be literally life-threatening. Between 2012 and 2018, prices for brand-name drugs in the United States have increased 68 percent, making critical medications out of reach for most families.

The list price in 2017 for a 1-year supply of Humira—the No. 1 selling brand-name drug that treats arthritis, psoriasis, and Crohn's disease—was over \$58,000. That is more than the annual median income for people in the State of Michigan.

The price of insulin has spiked in recent years, growing by 55 percent since 2014. That is simply outrageous, and it is simply unacceptable. Guided by the stories from Michigan families and medical professionals, I am working to examine and tackle the rising cost of prescription drugs.

Earlier this week, through my work as ranking member of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I announced I am conducting an investigation into the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs. I am also investigating the growing shortages of critical medications affecting hospitals and patients throughout the country.

Unaffordable prescription and hospital-administered drugs—and the increasing number and length of drug shortages—have become an economic,

national security, and public health crisis for Michigan, as well as for the rest of the country.

Through my investigation, I am working to: 1, identify solutions to address increasing drug costs; 2, evaluate the effect of drug shortages on patient care; 3, examine the national security implications of our growing reliance on drugs manufactured overseas, primarily in China and India.

This investigation builds on some of my previous efforts, including my call for the Food and Drug Administration to share information on the Administration's efforts to counter drug shortages—and my bill advancing in the Senate to lower healthcare costs for seniors through Medicare Part B. For many people in Michigan and across the country, being able to afford your medicine is a matter of life and death, and we must take action.

We must allow certainly for safe drug importation from Canada, but let me be clear: Going to Canada is not a solution. You need to be able to purchase affordable, quality, safe prescription drugs in the United States.

We must improve competition, end price gouging, increase price transparency, and hold drug companies accountable.

We must enable Medicare to negotiate drug prices for seniors. We must eliminate drug shortages to ensure that all patients can get the medication they need when they need it, and we must work to bring more affordable generic medications to the market.

Families in Michigan and across the country are counting on us. Families should never be forced to choose between paying their bills or getting the medication they need. But sadly, that is the choice that too many families are facing today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

TRIBUTE TO PERRY GREEN

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, it is Thursday afternoon, and that means it is one of my favorite times in the U.S. Senate because I get to come to the Senate floor and recognize an Alaskan who has done something that is great for our State, great for the community, great for the country—you name it. I come here and brag about somebody I represent in Alaska, and I call this person the Alaskan of the Week. I know the Presiding Officer likes it, and the pages certainly do.

What I like to do when I am starting this speech each week is talk to our visitors in the Gallery and people who are watching on TV to give a little update on what is going on in Alaska and encourage a visit. You will have the visit of a lifetime, guaranteed, if you come to Alaska.

Right now, as you can imagine, the great white north winter is coming in parts of the State. It has definitely arrived in other parts. Winter is a great time to be in Alaska, not just the summer. You can ski, snowboard, and at

the end of the day sit back, drink something warm, and watch the northern lights dance in our sky. So come visit. You will love coming to visit Alaska.

What is really nice to do if you come and visit now is to wear a fur in Alaska. We have some great furriers in Alaska, but David Green Master Furrier in Anchorage is one of the oldest, most well respected, and certainly one of the best in our State and, I think, in the country. It is an Alaskan institution, and our Alaskan of the Week, Mr. PERRY Green, one of the kindest, most generous, most patriotic, hard-working Alaskans, has worked throughout the decades to keep this great institution that way.

Let me tell you a little bit about Perry Green. His father David was from New York. He was enthralled with Alaska, a huge fan of the characters that Alaska attracts, as well as Jack London's "Call of the Wild." So David moved to Washington State to be close to Alaska, where he eventually opened stores many, many years ago.

Perry Green, David's son, was born in Seattle on March 17, 1936. That is St. Patrick's Day. How great is that? I always knew Perry had a little Irish in him. He recalled:

My father would come back from Alaska with such great stories, and all the Alaska sourdoughs would come to visit him. They sat at the dinner table and I was enthralled with their tales.

Anyone who knows anything about Alaska knows those stories, has heard about them, read about them—bear attacks, moose charges, frostbite, crossing perilous rivers, traversing vast landscapes under the dancing skies, wolves howling in the distance, fires barely starting at 40 below, and countless stories about being saved by the kindness of strangers out on the trail.

Perry also came of age during World War II. His father made fur ruffs for the soldiers' parkas, which set the stage for Perry's enduring patriotism and support for our troops. He said:

I remember watching the troops head overseas, the wonderful parades. It all made me swell up with pride.

I would say that Perry Green is the most patriotic American I know, and we have a lot of patriots in Alaska.

He met his beautiful future wife, the beautiful Gloria, gracious Gloria, when they were both young and began dating as teenagers, and they have been together ever since. As a matter of fact, that is 63 years of marriage. That is something to be celebrated. Perry said that marrying Gloria was the best decision he ever made. I know Gloria, and I would certainly agree with Perry, and I would certainly agree with this: Like me, he definitely married up.

Like his father, he traveled back and forth to Washington State often for work. He went to Alaska to work on the Alaska Railroad in order to save enough money to buy Gloria a wedding ring. He served in the U.S. Army for 3 years, and eventually he and Gloria

made their way to our great State to forge a life together. They have been there ever since, and what a life they have lived.

Initially, Perry worked at his father's store in downtown Anchorage, but for a time he broke out on his own and started the Anchorage Fur Trading Company, which became the largest fur dealer in Alaska, and it was wildly successful. He traveled all across the State—300 villages in all, some of them multiple times—buying furs from the locals. He traveled by dog team, by sled, by snow machine, by bush plane, and everywhere he went he was greeted warmly and generously by people in rural Alaska in these villages. He said:

I learned so much from the Alaska Native people. I was in awe of their kindness, their respect for elders, and their rich, cultural heritage.

That time in rural Alaska was one of the best times of his life and laid the foundation for what has been one of Perry Green's biggest loves—our State, the great State of Alaska, which he has given his all to.

His company, David Green Master Furrier, is an iconic business in downtown Anchorage because they sell some of the best and most beautiful furs around, no doubt, but also because of Perry and his extended family, who have done such a great job of running the company for decades.

My daughters and I have a little tradition on Christmas Eve. We head over to this great store and look for something to buy my wife, their mom. It is a fun, fun tradition that we do.

Perry has been the face of the store for decades. People still remember his quirky commercials featuring tarantulas, huge athletes chasing him around, and always the tagline, "If you don't know your furs, know your furrier."

It seems that all of Anchorage and so much of Alaska knew their furrier. It should be noted that they also know this Alaska furrier in Las Vegas as well. Perry Green is a very good poker player and has won three World Series of Poker bracelets and has made it to the final table of the World Series of Poker main event in Vegas two times. How about that for an adventurous life?

It wasn't just his store and Perry's love of a good poker game that has endeared him to so many Alaskans. A man of deep faith, he is one of the most generous people in my State and one of the most committed Alaskans to public service and helping others.

"I never was interested in being rich," Perry said. "I wanted to do something positive for other people because that's the greatest thing you can do."

He has sat on nearly every board there is. You name it—the taxicab commission, the insurance board, the planning and zoning board, the symphony and opera board, the Rotary board, and a member of the Elks Club, the Masons, the Alaska Jewish Campus

and Museum. The list goes on and on in terms of his service.

He also raises money for numerous causes. "I can't think of a fundraising effort that his name isn't a part of," his longtime friend Gordon Glaser said about Perry.

Perry is especially generous in causes that raise money for our men and women in uniform. On the eve of Veterans Day, we can't thank him enough for that.

"Anyone who's been in Anchorage in the last two generations knows that if you need something done, Perry will do it," his friend Gordon said.

If you are down on your luck or if you need a job, need a place to stay, or need some assistance, Perry will help. Every community, every State, has leaders like this. We all know those types of people. They are very special, and he is one of them.

Perry and his wife Gloria are also personally generous with their house—a lively, happy place open to people all across our State and, really, the world.

Anchorage Mayor Ethan Berkowitz, another longtime friend of Perry's, credits him for teaching him and so many others "how to be an Alaskan." What does that mean? According to Mayor Berkowitz, it means that he brought the spirit of Tikun Olam to Alaska. That is a Hebrew phrase meaning healing the world. Perry has brought this to our State one generous act at a time, one community at a time.

Perry and Gloria will be honored at Alaska's Jewish Gala next week—one of our State's most fun and memorable events. It will be next Saturday evening, and I will be there for sure. It is a time when we all can gather together, celebrate the vital role the Jewish community has played in our great State, and be reminded that Alaska is a place where we can all come together and take care of each other the way the Greens have been doing for decades.

Rabbi Yosef Greenberg, a good friend of mine and another extremely generous man who has given so much to our State, says that the mission of the Alaska Jewish Campus that Perry Green has been so generous to is "Warming up Alaska!"

"In the 60 years of Alaska's statehood," said Rabbi Greenberg, "Perry Green has warmed up Alaska, not only with his David Green fur coats but even more so with the joys of his life, big heart, and lending a hand to ordinary Alaskans and anyone in need." That is how he has warmed up our great State.

Perry and Gloria have done so much for Alaska. They are highly deserving of this recognition they will be receiving at the Jewish Gala next week. Congratulations to them and their 5 children, 13 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, and all of the extended Green family, so many of whom continue to serve our State and country so well.

Perry, from your friend, congratulations on being our Alaskan of the Week.

I yield the floor.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

REMEMBERING KAY HAGAN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is great sadness that Marcelle and I learned of the passing of Senator Kay Hagan of North Carolina on October 28. I have served in the U.S. Senate with nearly 400 Senators. Like many of them, Senator Hagan fought day and day out for her constituents in North Carolina and for the ideals and morals on which our country was founded.

Senator Hagan followed a line of public service in the Hagan family. Her father and brother served in the Navy, and her uncle, Lawton Chiles, represented Florida here in the U.S. Senate. Recognizing the sacrifice and importance of our Nation's service members, Senator Hagan was a tireless advocate for our military members and their families. During her time in the Senate, she was an active partner in our efforts to strengthen the National Guard, and she authored such important legislative initiatives as the Hire a Hero Act. She was also a tireless advocate for women and children, for efforts to support victims of crime, and for the advancement of civil rights. Her tenure in the Senate, in my view, was too short.

After Senator Hagan's work in the Senate, she went on to become a senior policy consultant for Akin Gump, where she held a particular focus on the health and financial services sectors. Additionally, in 2015, Senator Hagan became a resident fellow at the Institute of Politics at Harvard University, where she studied the influence money has in our politics. She said, "I worry how we are going to get good people to run for office if you have to spend so much time raising money." I agree. Our public servants at every level of our government should be more focused on advocating for their constituents, rather than raising a war chest to fight against wealthy corporate interests, pressure groups, or dark money influencers.

Her tragic affliction with Powassan virus, which ultimately led to her passing last month, robbed us of Senator Hagan's dedication to public service far too soon. It was also a stark reminder of how precious our time really is.

I know Marcelle and I join with North Carolinians and our Senate family in mourning the passing of Senator Hagan. Our hearts go out to Chip, their

children, Jeanette, Tilden, and Carrie, and the entire Hagan family. Our prayers are with Kay, as we mourn this dedicated public servant.

REMEMBERING JOHN CONYERS

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to remember John James Conyers, Jr., of Detroit, MI, the longest serving Black Congressman in history and a champion for civil rights and social justice. Sadly, Mr. Conyers passed away last week at the age of 90. Mr. Conyers was passionate about serving his country and his constituents, always fighting for those without a voice.

Mr. Conyers was born in Detroit, MI on May 16, 1929, to John and Lucille Conyers. After graduating from Northwestern High School, Mr. Conyers worked as a welder for Lincoln automotive while attending Wayne State University. He served in the Michigan National Guard before enlisting in the U.S. Army during the Korean war, where he served as a second lieutenant. After 4 years of service, he was honorably discharged and returned to Wayne State University to obtain his bachelor's degree in 1957 and his law degree in 1958.

In 1958, Mr. Conyers continued his life of service as a legal aide to Representative John Dingell, Jr., of Detroit. He then ran for Congress in 1964 and for the next 53 years, represented metro Detroit in a career full of many historic firsts for civil rights and the Black community.

Mr. Conyers was on the frontlines of the civil rights movement. He was a co-sponsor of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and worked with Martin Luther King, Jr., in Selma, AL to advocate for equal rights. In 1967, during the civil unrest in Detroit, Mr. Conyers was in the streets, encouraging peace and an end to the rioting. After the tragic assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1968, Mr. Conyers introduced legislation to forever remember Dr. King's legacy with a Federal holiday. He re-introduced his bill every session until it was signed into law in 1983. He also hired civil rights legend Rosa Parks to work in his Detroit office, where she stayed for over 20 years.

In Congress, Mr. Conyers was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus. He also served on and was chairman of the House Oversight Committee and the House Judiciary Committee. By the end of his service, he was the longest serving African-American Congressman in history, as well as the dean of the House of Representatives.

As an activist, trailblazer, and leader, Mr. Conyers will be greatly missed across Michigan, as he touched the lives of many people throughout Michigan. Mr. Conyers is survived by his wife of 29 years, Monica, and his two sons, John and Carl.

Mr. President, I cannot express enough the impact Mr. John Conyers,

Jr., had on the city of Detroit and the State of Michigan. He was a pillar of our community and a model of humble leadership. His passion and tenacity will be missed. However, I am confident his legacy will continue to inspire others to serve and fight for justice and equality for all.

VETERANS DAY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I honor the service and sacrifices of our veterans and their families every day. As we approach the 101st Veterans Day on Monday, I want to take a moment to pay special tribute to the men and women who have worn a uniform in defense of our great Nation, its people, and our values.

Progress usually is a good thing, but sometimes it comes with frightful consequences. The industrial revolution brought the development of weapons and tactics that enabled humankind to wage war and carnage upon itself at a level never before seen. By the end of World War I, there were approximately 40 million military and civilian casualties. H.G. Wells predicted it would be "the war to end war." Tragically, that was not the case.

The United States played an instrumental role in ending World War I, then known as the Great War. On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, Germany signed an armistice with the Allies in a railroad car outside Compiegne, France. One hundred years ago, on November 11, 1919—exactly 1 year after the signing of the armistice with Germany—President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the first "Armistice Day" to commemorate the day. On that occasion, he stated: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory."

Maryland played a critical role in ending that conflict with victory. Prominent military installations such as Fort Meade and Aberdeen Proving Grounds rapidly trained and deployed troops to Europe, and about 2,000 Maryland servicemembers made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedom and ideals.

Congress passed legislation to establish Armistice Day as a legal holiday in 1938, "dedicated to the cause of world peace."

The advent of World War II brought new challenges to America. Just as before, countless brave men and women stepped forward to do their part in service of their country. And just as before, Marylanders stepped forward arm-in-arm with their fellow citizens. The mighty Bethlehem-Fairfield Shipyard in Baltimore produced hundreds of ships at dizzying speed to fight a war across a great ocean. Just a few miles from there, Glenn L. Martin Company's Aircraft produced A-22 Maryland bombers among other critically important aircraft in the battle for air superiority.

Marylanders heroically fought on battlefields across the European and Pacific theatres. In all, 6,454 Marylanders lost their lives in World War II. Their names are memorialized in the granite of the Maryland World War II Monument in Annapolis.

In 1954, after the Korean war, veterans service organizations urged Congress to amend the 1931 act by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation on June 1, 1954, November 11 became a day to thank and honor all American veterans who have served in wartime and peacetime.

Successive conflicts and a rapidly modernizing world have brought their own unique national security challenges, but Americans' bravery and willingness to serve has never wavered. Our Nation's security has always depended on the men and women of our military, and for their service, we are eternally indebted.

Maryland continues to play a strategic role in our Nation's security infrastructure. The Old Line State is home to 11 military installations. Among the facilities are Joint Base Andrews, which is home to the President's two Boeing VC-25 airplanes, which have the call sign "Air Force One" while the Commander-in-Chief is on board, and the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, which has been training midshipmen since 1845.

We honor all those men and women who have endeavored to protect our country and preserve our democracy so that Americans may live free from tyranny. Maryland is fortunate to be home to about 371,000 military veterans. These servant-leaders live amongst us as schoolteachers, small business owners, homemakers, public servants and most every other profession and they continue to give back to our communities.

Let us all honor our veterans on this solemn day and every day by holding the values they fought so gallantly to defend and by providing them with the benefits they earned through blood, sweat, courage, and perseverance.

On this Veterans Day, I join all Americans in thanking our veterans for their service, their sacrifice, and for being role models for future generations of Americans who will pick up the mantle of defending our great country.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, on this Veterans Day 2019, I wish to pay tribute to all veterans and thank them for their service. The freedoms we enjoy in America today are because of them.

For more than 200 years, our veterans have fought across the globe defending our freedoms, while their families waited and worried at home. Thanks to them, the forces of tyranny and oppression have been turned back and defeated time and again.

As Americans across the Nation come together on Veterans Day, I will be participating in a program in Fargo,

one of many being held in communities across North Dakota. Next Wednesday in Williston, several military organizations and Williston State College will sponsor a presentation by Medal of Honor recipient SSG Clinton Romesha.

As one of only 3,507 recipients in American history to receive this honor, Staff Sergeant Romesha was the fourth living Medal of Honor recipient for the Afghanistan and Iraq wars. It was presented in 2013 for his heroism during the Battle of Kamdesh in October 2009, a 12-hour battle that was significant in the Global War on Terrorism.

During this intense attack by some 300 Taliban fighters, despite his own shrapnel wounds, Romesha continued to fight. His actions helped mount a successful counterattack that eliminated Taliban machine guns and allowed for wounded soldiers to be taken to an aid station.

In his bestselling memoir, "Red Platoon: A True Story of American Valor," published in 2013, Romesha shares the account of the Battle of Kamdesh and how one person can make a difference against seemingly impossible odds.

Now a resident of Minot, ND, he travels extensively as a motivational speaker, sharing the message about how the capacity for leadership and bravery resides within everyone.

I commend Williston State College and its Foundation, the Williston Basin Chapter of the American Petroleum Institute, Williston Post 37 of the American Legion, Military Affairs Committee, VFW-Post 12169, and Williston Chapter 9 of the Disabled American Veterans for bringing this inspirational message by a true hero to their community.

Mr. President, on this Veterans Day, may we be reminded to be thankful every day for all who serve our country. May God bless all veterans and their families. They are all heroes.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO TODD PORTUNE

• Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Mr. Todd Portune, a dedicated public servant, who has spent his career serving the people of Cincinnati with dedication and enthusiasm. Commissioner Portune is retiring from politics following this term after more than a quarter century of service, and I know how much he will be missed by the people of Southwest Ohio.

Commissioner Portune was born in Cincinnati and from an early age was known for his work ethic. Throughout his education, Commissioner Portune remained in Ohio, graduating from Colerain High School, Oberlin College, and serving as the president of the Student Bar Association at the University of Cincinnati Law School.

Commissioner Portune's leadership embodies good government in action.

He helped lead the way in improving public health, from working to reduce infant mortality to expanding oral and dental care. Through projects to increase housing and job opportunities and secure funding for local first responders, he consistently focused on what he believed to be the fundamental goal of public service: to improve people's lives.

His service, from four terms in Cincinnati City Council to six terms as Hamilton County commissioner, inspired many to stand up for what they believe in. Commissioner Portune's fight for human rights will be a lasting part of his legacy. He advocated for LGBTQ rights before it was popular, and he always supported disability inclusion, those battling with addiction, and people without a voice in government.

His political triumphs can only be matched by his incredible personal tenacity throughout every obstacle thrown his way. But no matter what, he focused on serving the people in his beloved county.

Commissioner Portune will be remembered for his good humor, passion for public service, and strength to endure battles of all kinds. I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in thanking him for his service to our community and our State.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. W. MARK DONALD

• Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend Dr. W. Mark Donald, who has been elected as speaker of the House of Delegates for the American Dental Association, where he will serve a 3-year term. Dr. Donald has long been a leader in the dental community in Mississippi, and I look forward to seeing his success in this position with the American Dental Association, ADA.

A native of Louisville, MS, Dr. Donald graduated from the University of Mississippi School of Dentistry in 1988. Following graduation, he completed his general practice residency program with the VA Medic Center and the University of Mississippi School of Dentistry in Jackson, MS. In 1990, Dr. Donald opened his general dentistry practice in Louisville, MS. For three decades, Dr. Donald has been very active in the dental community in Mississippi. He has served as speaker, president, and as an ADA delegate for the Mississippi Dental Association. In addition, he served as speaker and president of the Academy of General Dentistry and as president of the Academy of General Dentistry Foundation. His other experience includes serving as a member of the ADA Council on Dental Practice in 2018; as chair, vice chair, secretary/treasurer, and parliamentarian of the ADA 5th District; and as Mississippi Mission of Mercy Project chair in 2011, 2013, and 2019. Since 2015, Dr. Donald has taught the next generation of Mississippi dentists as an ad-

junct faculty member at the University of Mississippi School of Dentistry. In 2017, Governor Phil Bryant appointed Dr. Donald to serve on the Mississippi Board of Dental Examiners, where he still currently serves.

Dr. Donald's contributions, dedicated service, and commitment to excellence have made a difference for dentists and dental patients across my State. In his new role serving as speaker of the House of Delegates for the American Dental Association, I believe he will continue to commit himself to bettering the dental profession and improving the lives of patients across the nation.

Mr. President, Mississippi is extremely proud to have Dr. Mark Donald serving as speaker of the House of Delegates for the American Dental Association. He has my appreciation and gratitude for all he has done for the great state of Mississippi. I wish Dr. Donald, and his family, all the best in their future endeavors.●

RECOGNIZING EAGLE ROCK GALLERY

• Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each month I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of a small business in my home State of Idaho. However, in honor of Veterans Day on November 11, this month I will honor a veteran-owned small business for each of the 10 days the Senate is in legislative session. The personal sacrifices made by America's veterans have protected the very freedoms and values that give each of us and our children the ability to achieve the American dream. The skills veterans learn as members of the military are invaluable and undoubtedly contribute to Idaho's flourishing veteran business community. I am proud of the sacrifices veterans have made to protect our country and that they are choosing Idaho to call home when they complete their service in the military.

As your U.S. Senator from the great State of Idaho, it is my pleasure to recognize Eagle Rock Gallery in Idaho Falls as the Veteran-owned Idaho Small Business of the Day for November 7, 2019.

Eagle Rock Gallery opened 6 months ago in Idaho Falls. It is owned and operated by U.S. Army veterans Gary Jensen and his wife, Kathi Cheyenne Jensen. The Jensens opened the gallery to host a collection of nationally and internationally recognized fine artists. The gallery includes a portrait studio, where clients can schedule portrait sessions for their families, friends, and even pets. In addition, the gallery features a variety of art available for purchase.

Kathi Cheyenne Jensen is an award-winning photographer known for her patriotic images, specifically those that feature bald eagles. The Jensens

seek to honor veterans who, like themselves, have sacrificed for American freedom. Recently, the gallery held a fundraiser with proceeds going to support local veterans in Idaho Falls.

Congratulations to Gary and Kathi Cheyenne Jensen and all of the artists at Eagle Rock Gallery for being selected as the Veteran-owned Idaho Small Business of the Day for November 7, 2019. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JAMES LONG

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I congratulate a former staff member of mine, James Long, on his recent promotion to colonel in the Air Force Reserve.

Jim served for a year as an Air Force fellow on my staff back in 2011. He worked hard and did a great job for us as we worked to make sure the men and women of the military were properly funded, organized, trained, and equipped. In particular, Jim was very helpful with respect to intelligence community issues, having previously served as a senior special agent at the Central Intelligence Agency's Office of the Inspector General, where he conducted and oversaw investigations of CIA officers and contractor personnel. After leaving my office, he went on to work with the Air Force's Office of Special Investigations as the chief of the Crime Integration Desk, as well as being individual mobilization augmentee to the Commander of the Investigations Collections Operations Nexus Center at Marine Corps Base Quantico.

Last year, while continuing his work in the Air Force Reserve, Jim was hired by the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General to build its first Major Frauds and Corruption Unit. He currently oversees large-scale criminal investigations and has put together a team of anti-fraud professionals, including special agents, forensic auditors, forensic accountants, data scientists, and analysts, to investigate and uncover significant fraud schemes. His team was also an integral part of the recent high-profile fraud case involving misuse of disaster relief funds that the Federal Emergency Management Agency administered in Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria.

Jim has had a long and distinguished career in the military, where he has served for over 26 years. He first served for 4 years in the Marine Corps, and after going to college, he joined the Air Force Reserve, where he has risen through the ranks to his current position as colonel.

Jim continues to have a stellar career serving the Nation, including being deployed to Kirkuk, Iraq, in 2008, where he commanded 57 combat missions.

Again, I wish to congratulate Colonel Long on his promotion and wish him

and his family the very best as he continues to serve our Nation, both in his capacities at the Air Force Reserve and at the Department of Homeland Security.●

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL GREGORY A. LUSK

● Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay MG Gregory A. Lusk, the Adjutant General of the North Carolina National Guard, for his many years of service to the great State of North Carolina.

Major General Lusk has served as the 40th Adjutant General of the North Carolina National Guard with distinction for nearly a decade. Major General Lusk's adept leadership over the roughly 11,500 citizen soldiers and airmen serving in the North Carolina Army and Air National Guard has been prominently displayed during the multiple harrowing natural disasters that have struck North Carolina in recent years. In 2018, Major General Lusk oversaw a massive mobilization of N.C. Guardsmen prior to the landfall of Hurricane Florence. During the ensuing deployment, 3,400 N.C. Guardsmen assisted local, State, and Federal disaster response teams on hundreds dangerous search and rescue operations vital missions to provide lifesaving relief to evacuated families. In total, more than 1,300 North Carolinians were safely evacuated from dangerous floodwaters due to the effective command of Major General Lusk and the efforts of the North Carolina National Guard.

The tireless leadership of Major General Lusk has been invaluable during the numerous overseas deployments, stateside military exercises, and natural disaster responses that the North Carolina National Guard has participated in since his appointment to adjutant general in 2010. Major General Lusk's contribution to advancing the overall readiness and operational capabilities of the North Carolina National Guard has been critical in maintaining an effective and resilient Reserve Force. Through operations including Inherent Resolve, Enduring Freedom, and Freedom's Sentinel, as well as during the Hurricanes Irene, Matthew, Florence, and Dorian, Major General Lusk has ensured that the men and women of the Guard had the utmost preparation and training for every mission that they embarked on.

Major General Lusk has selflessly served the state of North Carolina and our Nation for almost 40 years. Following his commissioning through the Reserve Officer Training Program at North Carolina State University in 1982, Major General Lusk was stationed throughout the State and around the world as he rose from a second lieutenant to a major general. Major General Lusk was mobilized twice to Iraq as both an executive officer and a commander of the 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, commanding 4,000 North Carolina Guardsmen in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As a U.S. Senator, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and a North Carolinian, I am pleased to congratulate Major General Gregory Lusk on his retirement, for his impressive career of military service and steadfast commitment to our country.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

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-3120. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Dinotefuran; Pesticide Tolerance for Emergency Exemption" (FRL No. 10000-96) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3121. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pyropyzamide; Pesticide Tolerance for Emergency Exemptions" (FRL No. 10000-50) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3122. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tebuconazole; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 10001-27) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3123. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Michael D. Lundy, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3124. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Modification of DFARS Clause 'Protection Against Compromising Emanations'" (RIN0750-AK52) (DFARS Case 2019-D015) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3125. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, Privacy Act of 1974” (RIN0790-AK60) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 31, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3126. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Company-Run Stress Testing Requirements for FDIC-Supervised State Nonmember Banks and State Savings Associations” (RIN3064-AE84) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 31, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3127. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Prudential Standards for Large Bank Holding Companies, Savings and Loan Holding Companies, and Foreign Banking Organizations” (RIN7100-AF45) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3128. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Illinois; NAAQS Update” (FRL No. 10001-88-Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3129. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Determination of Attainment by the Attainment Date for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards; Phoenix-Mesa, Arizona” (FRL No. 10001-65-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3130. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “National Priorities List” (FRL No. 10001-92-OLEM) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3131. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Standards of Performance for Stationary Compression Ignition Internal Combustion Engines” ((RIN2060-AU27) (FRL No. 10001-93-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3132. A communication from the Acting Chief Privacy Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Department of Homeland Security 2019 Privacy Office Annual Report to Congress”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3133. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to

law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class C Airspace; Huntsville, AL” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0816)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3134. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0492)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3135. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0580)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3136. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0500)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3137. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0501)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3138. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0523)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3139. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0738)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3140. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0524)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3141. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of

Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; De Havilland Aircraft of Canada Limited (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0493)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3142. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney Turbofan Engines” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0843)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3143. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; ATR-GIE Avions de Transport Regional Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0716)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-151. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan urging the United States Congress to speedily approve the recently negotiated United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 73

Whereas, The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is a close tri-lateral relationship between the United States, Canada, and Mexico. For more than 25 years, NAFTA has been economically, culturally, and strategically important for all parties; and

Whereas, NAFTA is significant for the American economy. Trade with Canada and Mexico supports nearly 12 million American jobs, and nearly 5 million of those jobs are supported by increased NAFTA trade. Since the agreement began in 1994, trade with Canada and Mexico has nearly quadrupled to \$1.3 trillion, and the two countries buy more than one-third of U.S. merchandise exports. U.S. service exports to Canada and Mexico have also tripled, rising from \$27.5 billion in 1993 to \$91.3 billion in 2017, thanks to the trade agreement's new market access and clearer rules; and

Whereas, Trade with Canada and Mexico is significant to U.S. states. For 43 states, our contiguous international neighbors represent the first or second largest export market, and all but one state counts Canada or Mexico as a top three trading partner. Canada is Michigan's largest export market, and Mexico is Michigan's third largest export market. NAFTA has also contributed to a 300 percent increase in Michigan's agricultural exports to Canada and Mexico; and

Whereas, Small and medium-sized enterprises in the United States rely on trade with Canada and Mexico to support and grow their business. Canada and Mexico are the top two export destinations for U.S. small and medium-sized enterprises, more than

125,000 of which sold their goods and services in Canada and Mexico in 2014; and

Whereas, Trade among our North American trading partners is made up predominantly of intellectual property (IP)-intensive goods and services that employ millions of Americans in high paying jobs and generate billions of dollars in economic output. However, many of the IP-intensive goods, services, and exchanges through which trade is facilitated did not exist when the agreement was drafted. This situation has resulted in uneven and weak IP enforcement. Stronger enforcement of IP rights will encourage more foreign direct investment and increase gross domestic product; and

Whereas, The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) creates a 21st Century trade agreement for North America. The renegotiated USMCA has provisions favorable to U.S. autoworkers that would help level the playing field between U.S. and Mexican autoworkers. The updated agreement is also more beneficial to the agricultural sector than NAFTA and will offer a higher degree of certainty and stability to Michigan farmers. The new IP provisions are the most comprehensive of any multilateral U.S. trade agreement and are vastly superior to those included in NAFTA; and

Whereas, The USMCA is a win for all three countries. Ratification will modernize North American trade, reduce uncertainty by setting the rules for every player, encourage investment and innovation, and support millions of well-paying manufacturing jobs. The USMCA will also encourage automotive research and development investments in the United States and ensure that the U.S. automotive industry, which is fundamental to the Michigan economy, remains a leader in the global economy; and

Whereas, A seamless transition between NAFTA and the USMCA will ensure that none of the benefits in trade accomplished by the integration of the three North American economies will be lost; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we urge the Congress of the United States to speedily approve the recently negotiated United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-152. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan urging the United States Congress to increase funding for Sickle cell disease research; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 80

Whereas, Sickle cell disease (SCD) is a disabling inherited blood disorder that causes the production of abnormally shaped (sickled) red blood cells that can stick together and block the flow of blood and oxygen. SCD leads to severe medical problems, including unpredictable episodes of excruciating pain, organ damage, anemia, increased susceptibility to infection, stroke, and decreased life span; and

Whereas, SCD poses a serious threat to public health. SCD affects approximately 100,000 individuals in the United States, including 1,000 babies born each year. The disease disproportionately impacts people of African, Middle Eastern, and South American descent. In 2016, there were approximately 134,000 hospital inpatient stays and nearly 250,000 emergency department visits related to SCD, both leading to increased medical costs, and

Whereas, There is no universal cure for SCD. Stem cell transplantation is currently

the only cure, and it is not necessarily appropriate for all SCD patients. There have been advancements in treating the complications of SCD, but more research is needed to study emerging treatments, including therapies to address the underlying cause of the disease; and

Whereas, SCD research is underfunded compared to other rare inherited diseases, such as cystic fibrosis. Additional funding for SCD research is imperative to identify new treatments and cures to help patients with SCD and address the public health risks posed by the disease; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we urge the United States Congress to increase funding for sickle cell disease research; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-153. A resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rhinebeck, New York urging the United States Congress to pass the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act; to the Committee on Finance.

POM-154. A resolution adopted by the Select Board of the Town of North Hampton, New Hampshire urging the United States Congress to pass the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act; to the Committee on Finance.

POM-155. A resolution adopted by the Council of the Town of Red Hook, New York urging the United States Congress to pass the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act; to the Committee on Finance.

POM-156. A resolution adopted by the Commission of the Caddo Parish, Louisiana urging the United States Congress to protect funding for local public health services and prevention programs made possible by the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF); to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

H.R. 887. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 877 East 1200 South in Orem, Utah, as the "Jerry C. Washburn Post Office Building".

H.R. 1252. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6531 Van Nuys Boulevard in Van Nuys, California, as the "Marilyn Monroe Post Office".

H.R. 1253. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 13507 Van Nuys Boulevard in Pacoima, California, as the "Ritchie Valens Post Office Building".

H.R. 1526. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 Israel Road Southeast in Tumwater, Washington, as the "Eva G. Hewitt Post Office".

H.R. 1844. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 66 Grove Court in Elgin, Illinois, as the "Corporal Alex Martinez Memorial Post Office Building".

H.R. 1972. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1100 West Kent Avenue in Missoula, Montana, as the "Jeannette Rankin Post Office Building".

H.R. 2151. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at

7722 South Main Street in Pine Plains, New York, as the "Senior Chief Petty Officer Shannon M. Kent Post Office".

H.R. 2325. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Calle Alondra in San Juan, Puerto Rico, as the "65th Infantry Regiment Post Office Building".

S. 2712. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 430 South Knowles Avenue in New Richmond, Wisconsin, as the "Captain Robert C. Harmon and Private John R. Peirson Post Office Building".

H.R. 3144. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8520 Michigan Avenue in Whittier, California, as the "Jose Ramos Post Office Building".

H.R. 3314. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1750 McCulloch Boulevard North in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, as the "Lake Havasu City Combat Veterans Memorial Post Office Building".

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. GRAHAM for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Steven J. Menashi, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

Robert J. Luck, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

Barbara Lagoa, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

Sherri A. Lydon, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

John M. Gallagher, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Silvia Carreno-Coll, of Puerto Rico, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico.

(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. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 2807. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the quality of care furnished by hospice programs under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. UDALL, Mr. JONES, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. SMITH, Mr. HEINRICH, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 2808. A bill to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian Tribes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2809. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a surtax on high

income individuals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 2810. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a presumption of service-connection for certain veterans with tinnitus or hearing loss, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2811. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to continue to pay educational assistance or subsistence allowances to eligible persons when educational institutions are temporarily closed, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2812. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a Medicare payment option for patients and eligible professionals to freely contract, without penalty, for Medicare fee-for-service items and services, while allowing Medicare beneficiaries to use their Medicare benefits; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 2813. A bill to establish a CBP Hiring and Retention Innovation Council to develop ideas and initiatives to improve U.S. Customs and Border Protection hiring and retention efforts and capabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 2814. A bill to allow acceleration certificates awarded under the Patents for Humanity Program to be transferable; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 2815. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the National Purple Heart Honor Mission; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 2816. A bill to ensure that fixed broadband internet access service assisted by any Federal broadband support program meets a minimum speed threshold; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2817. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish an annual reference price for insulin products for purposes of Federal health programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 2818. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to issue regulations to ban the venting and flaring of gas in oil and gas production operations in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ROBERTS:

S. 2819. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the income-based limitations for the Lifetime Learning Credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. ALEXANDER):

S. 2820. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation, acting through the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administra-

tion, to revise section 91.145 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, such that the term "sporting" does not limit the types of major events described in such section; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2821. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to allow a veteran to receive a full year supply of contraceptive pills, transdermal patches, and vaginal rings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH:

S. 2822. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop and maintain a suicide risk management and prevention and lethal means training course for certain employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 2823. A bill to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Las Cruces, New Mexico, as the "Las Cruces Bataan Memorial Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 2824. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to require the Register of Copyrights to waive fees for filing an application for registration of a copyright claim in certain circumstances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH:

S. 2825. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide child care assistance to veterans receiving certain training or vocational rehabilitation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. COONS):

S. 2826. A bill to require a global economic security strategy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. ALEXANDER):

S. 2827. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish within the National Park Service the U.S. African-American Burial Grounds Network, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY)):

S. 2828. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement allowing for adaptive management of certain Federal land in Malheur County, Oregon, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. FISCHER:

S. 2829. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 and title 17, United States Code, to enhance the ability of direct broadcast satellite providers to offer additional local broadcast services to consumers under limited circumstances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. JONES (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. Res. 410. A resolution establishing a McCain-Mansfield Fellowship Program in the Senate; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. Res. 411. A resolution affirming that States maintain primacy for the regulation of hydraulic fracturing for oil and natural gas production on State and private lands, that the President has no authority to declare a moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing on State and private lands, and that the President should not attempt to declare a moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing on Federal lands (including the Outer Continental Shelf) or lands held in trust for an Indian Tribe, unless the moratorium is authorized by an Act of Congress; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WICKER, and Ms. WARREN):

S. Res. 412. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of November 4 through November 8, 2019, as "National Family Service Learning Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RISCH, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. YOUNG, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. REED, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. Kaine, Ms. ERNST, Mr. JONES, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. DAINES, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. HAWLEY, and Ms. MCSALLY):

S. Res. 413. A resolution designating the week of November 4 through November 8, 2019, as "National Veterans Small Business Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. UDALL, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. WICKER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. MCSALLY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MORAN, Mr. KING, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. Kaine, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. Res. 414. A resolution recognizing National Native American Heritage Month and celebrating the heritages and cultures of Native Americans and the contributions of Native Americans to the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for Ms. WARREN (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. TESTER, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, and Mrs. CAPITO)):

S. Res. 415. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States Postal Service should issue a commemorative postage stamp series honoring women veterans of the Armed Forces and that the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee should recommend to the Postmaster General that such a stamp series be issued; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. Res. 416. A resolution calling for the peaceful return to Cambodia of opposition

party members and democracy activists; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 133

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 133, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States merchant mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II.

S. 206

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 206, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the female telephone operators of the Army Signal Corps, known as the "Hello Girls".

S. 259

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 259, a bill to impose criminal sanctions on certain persons involved in international doping fraud conspiracies, to provide restitution for victims of such conspiracies, and to require sharing of information with the United States Anti-Doping Agency to assist its fight against doping, and for other purposes.

S. 287

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 287, a bill to amend the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 to impose limitations on the authority of the President to adjust imports that are determined to threaten to impair national security, and for other purposes.

S. 445

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 445, a bill to allow veterans to use, possess, or transport medical marijuana and to discuss the use of medical marijuana with a physician of the Department of Veterans Affairs as authorized by a State or Indian Tribe, and for other purposes.

S. 460

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) were added as cosponsors of S. 460, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion for employer-provided education assistance to employer payments of student loans.

S. 514

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 514, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the benefits and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to women veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 631

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 631, a bill to provide for the admission of the State of Washington, D.C. into the Union.

S. 633

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 633, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women's Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the "Six Triple Eight".

S. 655

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 655, a bill to impose additional restrictions on tobacco flavors for use in e-cigarettes.

S. 785

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 785, a bill to improve mental health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 800

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 800, a bill to establish a postsecondary student data system.

S. 803

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 803, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore incentives for investments in qualified improvement property.

S. 834

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 834, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance the national strategy for combating and eliminating tuberculosis, and for other purposes.

S. 892

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 892, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the women in the United States who joined the workforce during World War II, providing the aircraft, vehicles, weaponry, ammunition, and other materials to win the war, that were referred to as "Rosie the Riveter", in recognition of their contributions to the United States and the inspiration they have provided to ensuing generations.

S. 995

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Washington

(Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 995, a bill to amend title XXIX of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program under such title relating to lifespan respite care.

S. 1032

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1032, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the definition of income for purposes of determining the tax-exempt status of certain corporations.

S. 1123

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1123, a bill to transfer and limit Executive Branch authority to suspend or restrict the entry of a class of aliens.

S. 1253

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 1253, a bill to apply requirements relating to delivery sales of cigarettes to delivery sales of electronic nicotine delivery systems, and for other purposes.

S. 1374

At the request of Ms. MCSALLY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1374, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the waiting periods for disability insurance benefits and Medicare coverage for individuals with metastatic breast cancer, and for other purposes.

S. 1399

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1399, a bill to amend title VIII of the Public Health Services Act to revise and extend nursing workforce development programs.

S. 1499

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) were added as cosponsors of S. 1499, a bill to establish National Wildlife Corridors to provide for the protection and restoration of certain native fish, wildlife, and plant species, and for other purposes.

S. 1590

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Washington

(Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1590, a bill to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to authorize rewards for thwarting wildlife trafficking linked to transnational organized crime, and for other purposes.

S. 1608

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1608, a bill to provide for the publication by the Secretary of Health and Human Services of physical activity recommendations for Americans.

S. 1703

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1703, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the low-income housing credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1757

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1757, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States Army Rangers Veterans of World War II in recognition of their extraordinary service during World War II.

S. 1766

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1766, a bill to implement policies to end preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths globally.

S. 1781

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1781, a bill to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal years 2020 through 2022 to provide assistance to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras through bilateral compacts to increase protection of women and children in their homes and communities and reduce female homicides, domestic violence, and sexual assault.

S. 1822

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 1822, a bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to issue rules relating to the collection of data with respect to the availability of broadband services, and for other purposes.

S. 2012

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2012, a bill to provide that certain regulatory actions by the Federal Communications Commission shall have no force or effect.

S. 2250

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2250, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish State and Indian tribe grants for community colleges and grants for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Minority-Serving Institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2254

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2254, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create a Pension Rehabilitation Trust Fund, to establish a Pension Rehabilitation Administration within the Department of the Treasury to make loans to multi-employer defined benefit plans, and for other purposes.

S. 2427

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2427, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue quarter dollars in commemoration of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2453

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2453, a bill to assist in the conservation of the North Atlantic right whale by supporting and providing financial resources for North Atlantic right whale conservation programs and projects of persons with expertise required for the conservation of North Atlantic right whales, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2453, *supra*.

S. 2629

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2629, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Public Health Service Corps.

S. 2641

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2641, a bill to promote United States national security and prevent the resurgence of ISIS, and for other purposes.

S. 2651

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2651, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide inscriptions for spouses and children on certain headstones and markers furnished by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

S. 2671

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2671, a bill to build safer, thriving communities, and save lives by investing in effective violence reduction initiatives.

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2671, *supra*.

S. 2680

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2680, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign support for Palestinian terrorism, and for other purposes.

S. 2695

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) were added as cosponsors of S. 2695, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide for the defense of United States agriculture and food through the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, and for other purposes.

S. 2701

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2701, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to list fentanyl-related substances as schedule I controlled substances.

S. 2707

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2707, a bill to provide for a regional center for security studies for the Arctic in the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 2711

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2711, a bill to require institutions of higher education to disclose hazing-related misconduct, and for other purposes.

S. 2733

At the request of Mr. ROMNEY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2733, a bill to save and strengthen critical social contract programs of the Federal Government.

S. 2740

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2740, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to clarify the regulatory framework with respect to certain non-prescription drugs that are marketed without an approved new drug application, and for other purposes.

S. 2777

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr.

RUBIO), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2777, a bill to assist States, tribes, territories, counties, and cities in implementing the Family First Prevention Services Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2797

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2797, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to parole into the United States certain relatives of current and former members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 2805

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2805, a bill to improve transit-oriented development financing, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 98

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 98, a resolution establishing the Congressional Gold Star Family Fellowship Program for the placement in offices of Senators of children, spouses, and siblings of members of the Armed Forces who are hostile casualties or who have died from a training-related injury.

S. RES. 292

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 292, a resolution calling on the Government of Cameroon and armed separatist groups to respect the human rights of all Cameroonian citizens, to end all violence, and to pursue an inclusive dialogue to resolve the conflict in the Northwest and Southwest regions.

S. RES. 395

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 395, a resolution recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Iran Hostage Crisis, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 408

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 408, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Members of Congress and their staffs, employees of the Executive Office of the President and executive branch agencies, and the President of the United States have a duty to protect the identities of whistleblowers and safeguard whistleblowers from retaliation.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 2815. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the National Purple Heart Honor Mission; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2815

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 “National Purple Heart Honor Mission Commemorative Coin Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The mission of the National Purple Heart Honor Mission is—

(A) to commemorate the extraordinary sacrifice of servicemembers of the United States who were killed or wounded by enemy action; and

(B) to collect and preserve the stories of Purple Heart recipients from all branches of service and across generations to ensure that all recipients are represented.

(2) The National Purple Heart Honor Mission first opened its doors on November 10, 2006, in New Windsor, New York.

(3) The National Purple Heart Honor Mission is collocated with the New Windsor Cantonment State Historic Site.

(4) The National Purple Heart Mission estimates 1,800,000 service members of the United States were wounded or killed in action representing recipients from the Civil War to the present day, serving as a living memorial to their sacrifice by sharing their stories through interviews, exhibits, and the Roll of Honor, an interactive computer database of each recipient enrolled.

SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.

(a) DENOMINATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”) shall mint and issue the following coins:

(1) \$5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 50,000 \$5 coins, which shall—

(A) weigh 8.359 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 0.850 inches; and

(C) contain 90 percent gold and 10 percent alloy.

(2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 400,000 \$1 coins, which shall—

(A) weigh 26.73 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and

(C) contain not less than 90 percent silver.

(3) HALF-DOLLAR CLAD COINS.—Not more than 750,000 half-dollar coins which shall—

(A) weigh 11.34 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 1.205 inches; and

(C) be minted to the specifications for half-dollar coins contained in section 5112(b) of title 31, United States Code.

(b) LEGAL TENDER.—The coins minted under this Act shall be legal tender, as provided in section 5103 of title 31, United States Code.

(c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 4. DESIGNS OF COINS.

(a) DESIGNS REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The designs of the coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the mission of the National Purple Heart Honor Mission.

(2) DESIGNATION AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On each coin minted under this Act there shall be—

(A) a designation of the value of the coin;

(B) an inscription of the year “2022”; and

(C) inscriptions of the words “Liberty”, “In God We Trust”, “United States of America”, and “E Pluribus Unum”.

(b) SELECTION.—The designs for the coins minted under this Act shall be—

(1) selected by the Secretary after consultation with the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Purple Heart Honor Mission, Inc.; and

(2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee.

SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.

(a) QUALITY OF COINS.—Coins minted under this Act shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

(b) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may issue coins minted under this Act only during the 1-year period beginning on January 1, 2022.

SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.

(a) SALE PRICE.—The coins issued under this Act shall be sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum of—

(1) the face value of the coins;

(2) the surcharge provided in section 7(a) with respect to such coins; and

(3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

(b) BULK SALES.—The Secretary shall make bulk sales of the coins issued under this Act at a reasonable discount.

(c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept prepaid orders for the coins minted under this Act before the issuance of such coins.

(2) DISCOUNT.—Sale prices with respect to prepaid orders under paragraph (1) shall be at a reasonable discount.

SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—All sales of coins issued under this Act shall include a surcharge of—

(1) \$35 per coin for the \$5 coin;

(2) \$10 per coin for the \$1 coin; and

(3) \$5 per coin for the half-dollar coin.

(b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f)(1) of title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to the National Purple Heart Honor Mission, Inc. to support the mission of the National Purple Heart Honor Mission, Inc., including capital improvements to the National Purple Heart Honor Mission facilities.

(c) AUDITS.—The National Purple Heart Honor Mission, Inc. shall be subject to the audit requirements of section 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code, with regard to the amounts received under subsection (b).

(d) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin would result in the number of commemorative coin programs issued during such year to exceed the annual 2 commemorative coin program issuance limitation under section 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act). The Secretary of the Treasury may issue guidance to carry out this subsection.

SEC. 8. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.

The Secretary shall take such actions as may be necessary to ensure that—

(1) minting and issuing coins under this Act result in no net cost to the Federal Government; and

(2) no funds, including applicable surcharges, are disbursed to any recipient designated in section 7(b) until the total cost of designing and issuing all of the coins authorized by this Act, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping, is recovered by the United States Treasury, consistent with sections 5112(m) and 5134(f) of title 31, United States Code.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2817. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish an annual reference price for insulin products for purposes of Federal health programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, Canadian historian Michael Bliss wrote in his 1982 book, "The Discovery of Insulin," that "[w]ith insulin, the stone was rolled away, and diabetes became a matter of the quality of life, not speed of death."

For thousands of years, human beings have battled diabetes. When the pancreas stops producing insulin, all kinds of bad things happen—heart attacks, stroke, blindness, kidney failure, foot disease, foot amputations, small blood vessels throughout the body being impacted by that high blood sugar. In some cases, within months, individuals waste away, fall into diabetic comas, and die.

All that changed about a century ago thanks to the work of four Canadian scientists—Frederick Banting, Charles Best, J.B. Collip, and John Macleod. These four men discovered how to extract, develop, and refine a pure form of insulin that could be injected into the human body. It changed the world.

Thirty million Americans—almost 10 percent, 9.4 percent, of the American population live with type 1 or type 2 diabetes today. Of those 30 million, 7.4 million depend on insulin for their survival, but one-quarter of the people who depend on insulin for their survival have had to ration their insulin in the past year because of the extraordinary, over-the-Moon cost of this drug that was developed a century ago.

Rationing the drug, and therefore producing episodes or enduring levels of high blood sugar, has extensive health consequences. It does a lot of damage. Diabetic Americans are being gouged by the drug companies, and it needs to stop.

Today I am introducing, in partnership with Senator DURBIN, the End Price Gouging for Insulin Act to end this egregious practice. I want to ensure that every single one of those 7.4 million Americans who need insulin to survive can afford it. I want to ensure that not a single person has to ration their insulin. I can tell you that vision of every person having affordable insu-

lin is what the four scientists who invented it nearly 100 years ago envisioned. They didn't ask for great wealth from their work. They did receive recognition. A Nobel Prize went to two of them for their role in this. They certainly weren't asking for huge payouts or a high price. Do you know what they did? For the health of humanity, they sold their patent to the University of Toronto for \$3 to make insulin available to the world. All they cared about was saving lives. They wanted everyone who needed it to have it.

What do we see today? Almost a century later, the price of insulin is going higher and higher with the extensive greed of the companies that produce it. Over the last decade, the companies selling the four most popular types of insulin have tripled the price of their product—essentially the same product. They tripled the price. Nova Nordisk has two of these drugs; Sanofi has one; Eli Lilly has another—and they all tripled the price.

In 2012, the average price of insulin was about \$234 a month. By 2016, it was \$450 a month. Now we have seen it continue to rise since 2016. They have some explanations. There are some who say: Well, it is due to their vast input into research and development. Remember, these are drugs invented a century ago. Sure, there are slight variations, yes, but the money is going largely to profit.

There are those who say the price is higher because more people need it. More people buying it means more efficiencies, which means the price should drop. The nonprofit Health Care Cost Institute looked at the rising cost of insulin and said the excuses given by the drug companies just straight out aren't true. "It's not that individuals are using more insulin or that new products are particularly innovative or provide immense benefits. Use is pretty flat," said Ms. Fugelsten Biniek, one of the authors. "And the price changes are occurring in both older and newer products."

The reason the prices are going up—the companies are charging more—is because they can because we don't negotiate the price of drugs in America by law for Medicare.

These companies have some tricks up their sleeve. One is that when the generic competition gets all lined up, they proceed to pay the generic companies not to produce the generic drug, resulting in sustaining the price gouging in America.

Now, I think this practice is "pay to delay." I think it is a horrific predatory practice. It is a noncompetitive practice. It should be against the law, but we are not doing our job to make it against the law, apparently.

The other thing is they make slight changes. They produce a new patent on every tiny, microscopic change—it is called the evergreening of patents—so then they can line up a vast array of lawyers and say: If you produce generic

insulin, we will go after you in every which way. We have more lawyers than you have, and we have deeper pockets than you have. So good luck.

The result is a continuation of the extensive price gouging of Americans. A quarter of those 7.4 million Americans who need insulin to treat their diabetes are rationing their prescriptions. Sometimes that means just straight out skipping the doses altogether.

Folks from Oregon have written to me, people like Richard from Beaverton, OR.

Richard needs three lifesaving medications to get by, including the insulin Humalog, which costs over \$1,800 a year. Richard doesn't have \$1,800 to spare. He is 77 years old, blind, and recently finished chemo treatments for bladder cancer. Through it all, he has continued to work odd jobs to supplement his Social Security to be able to put food on the table for him and his wife, to be able to keep their house, and try to pay for those prescriptions.

Another constituent whom I will call Antonio is 58 years old and is living with type 1 diabetes, but like so many others, he has trouble affording the prescription. Antonio either uses insulin samples that he finds in his truck, which are about 10 years old, or he rations out the insulin that he does have to make it last until his monthly disability check comes in, which is when he can afford to get a new refill on the prescription.

This is a terrible strategy for managing an illness. It has led to hospital stays, diabetic ketoacidosis, kidney failure, visual impairment, and other diabetes-related ailments. Yet, from Antonio's perspective, what can he do? He can't afford the massive price increases these major drug companies have put on insulin. As for the generic he would like to buy, those same companies are blocking it from coming to market.

There is also Maria. Maria has sores on her feet because of her diabetes. She has been to the emergency room several times for foot infections. It turns out that her feet keep getting infected because she is forgoing her insulin to be able to afford basic necessities for her family—food, the cost of her housing, and transportation.

It turns out Maria's insurance doesn't cover the \$50 copay on diabetic shoes or her insulin or the injection medication that she takes to reduce her insulin needs, all of which would have reduced or eliminated the need for Maria to go to the emergency room. Yet her insurance does cover the emergency room visits. So, time and again, with her not being able to afford the medicine, that is where Maria ends up.

Another Oregonian whom I will call Phillip is living with type 2 diabetes. He said he takes less insulin than his doctor has prescribed. Why? He isn't able to afford the prescription. Yet Phillip doesn't want his provider to know any of this, because he is embarrassed about it. So his blood sugars are

routinely at high levels and are doing a lot of damage to his body. It has led to the diabetic-related complications of severe kidney damage, visual impairment, peripheral vascular disease, and heart disease.

Think about this for a moment. The pharmaceutical companies are gouging him on the price, but it is Phillip—he who has the diabetes—who feels embarrassed. Shouldn't it be the other way around? Shouldn't the companies be embarrassed about gouging Americans? I think so. The drugmakers are profiting off of sick Americans, and their predatory practices are designed to keep competitors from coming to the market. These are American citizens who are being affected while living in one of the wealthiest nations on the planet—the United States of America. Yet they can't afford a century-old drug that is meant to be freely shared with the world.

It doesn't have to be this way. The same kind of insulin that costs \$373 here in the United States costs \$47 in Australia. Why? The Australian Government negotiates the price. It is past time we stood up for the American people and put an end to the price gouging of Americans.

In France, the drug Lantus is \$47. In Australia, it is \$54. In Germany, it is \$61. In the United Kingdom, it is \$64. In Canada, it is \$67. In the United States of America, it is \$373. That is six times the median price of the drug in these other developed nations.

Why don't we insist that the companies that get all kinds of benefits from being here in America sell to Americans at the median price or at the average price—either one—which is what they sell to the rest of the developed world? Why is it a fair price for every other country, but it is gouging for Americans?

Americans pay the price. Those who have diabetes but who cannot afford that insulin start rationing it and start to see the devastating impacts on their bodies—from the kidneys, to the vision, to the feet, to the heart disease. Then they end up in the hospital, as well, with there being more costs to the U.S. healthcare system. Don't we care about the health of Americans? Are we here to protect greed for these companies or the health of Americans?

Senator DURBIN and I have introduced a bill that says you can't charge more in America than the reference price that is charged in key developed countries around the world—Canada, Australia, Japan—or charge more than the median price in the group of eight of the largest European nations. It doesn't even have to be the lowest price in the world under this formulation. This is called a reference price bill, wherein we essentially attach ourselves to the fair prices charged to the rest of the world.

The drug companies will say: We want to make more money so we can do more research.

Well, raise your price on these other countries while you are dropping the

price for the United States. That is a pretty simple solution that ends the price gouging in the United States of America.

If a company violates this reference price, then it pays a fine of 10 times the difference between the reference price and the price it charges Americans. Where does that money go? It goes to the research and development of new drug products in our bill.

That is the vision. There is no reason that Americans should be paying six times the median price of other developed countries—six times. This is not 6 percent more or 60 percent more, which would be outrageous. This is six times the price charged to other developed countries.

It is way past time that we stood up for the American people, not the greed of the pharmaceutical companies. It is way past time that we stood up for sick Americans like Richard and Antonio and Maria and Phillip and millions more in every one of our States. Millions of Americans are forced to ration their insulin or skip doses altogether because of corporate greed. It is way past time to end the price gouging of Americans.

Let's put this bill on the floor, and let's pass this bill for our citizens across this great land.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 410—ESTABLISHING A MCCAIN-MANSFIELD FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM IN THE SENATE

Mr. JONES (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 410

Resolved, SECTION 1. MCCAIN-MANSFIELD FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this resolution—
(1) the term “eligible military veteran” means a veteran, as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code, that meets any eligibility requirements established by the Secretary for participation in the program under this section; and

(2) the term “Sergeant at Arms” means the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made available to carry out this section, the Sergeant at Arms shall establish a program through which eligible military veterans may apply for and participate in a fellowship position in the personal office of a Senator.

(2) DESIGNATION.—The program established under paragraph (1) shall be referred to as the “McCain-Mansfield Fellowship Program”.

(3) ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OFFICE.—The Sergeant at Arms shall establish, in the Office of the Sergeant at Arms, an office to administer the McCain-Mansfield Fellowship Program. The office shall develop a process through which—

(A) Senators who wish to participate in the McCain-Mansfield Fellowship Program may notify the Sergeant at Arms; and

(B) eligible military veterans may apply for a McCain-Mansfield Fellowship.

(c) DURATION, NUMBER, DISTRIBUTION, AND AMOUNT OF FELLOWSHIPS.—

(1) DURATION.—A McCain-Mansfield Fellowship shall be for a 2-year period.

(2) NUMBER AND DISTRIBUTION OF FELLOWSHIPS.—Subject to the availability of appropriations—

(A) the Sergeant at Arms shall award not more than 100 McCain-Mansfield Fellowships; and

(B) the Sergeant at Arms shall distribute the McCain-Mansfield Fellowships under this section for an award period in a manner that provides not less than 1 Fellowship position for each Senator wishing to participate in the program.

(3) AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—The Sergeant at Arms shall determine the stipend or other financial assistance appropriate for each particular McCain-Mansfield Fellowship position under this section, depending on the duties of the position and the recommendations from the Senator offering the position.

SENATE RESOLUTION 411—AFFIRMING THAT STATES MAINTAIN PRIMACY FOR THE REGULATION OF HYDRAULIC FRACTURING FOR OIL AND NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION ON STATE AND PRIVATE LANDS, THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS NO AUTHORITY TO DECLARE A MORATORIUM ON THE USE OF HYDRAULIC FRACTURING ON STATE AND PRIVATE LANDS, AND THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO DECLARE A MORATORIUM ON THE USE OF HYDRAULIC FRACTURING ON FEDERAL LANDS (INCLUDING THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF) OR LANDS HELD IN TRUST FOR AN INDIAN TRIBE, UNLESS THE MORATORIUM IS AUTHORIZED BY AN ACT OF CONGRESS

Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. BARRASSO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

S. RES. 411

Resolved, That—

(1) States maintain primacy for the regulation of hydraulic fracturing for oil and natural gas production on State and private lands;

(2) the President has no authority to declare a moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing on State and private lands; and

(3) the President should not attempt to declare a moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing on Federal lands (including the Outer Continental Shelf) or lands held in trust for an Indian Tribe, unless the moratorium is authorized by an Act of Congress.

SENATE RESOLUTION 412—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 4 THROUGH NOVEMBER 8, 2019, AS “NATIONAL FAMILY SERVICE LEARNING WEEK”

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WICKER, and Ms. WARREN)

submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 412

Whereas family service learning is a method under which children and families learn and solve problems together in a multi-generational approach with active participation in thoughtfully organized service that—

(1) is conducted in, and meets the needs of, their communities;

(2) is focused on children and families solving community issues together;

(3) requires the application of college and career readiness skills by children and relevant workforce training skills by adults; and

(4) is coordinated between the community and an elementary school, a secondary school, an institution of higher education, or a family community service program;

Whereas family service learning—

(1) is multi-generational learning that involves parents, children, caregivers, and extended family members in shared learning experiences in physical and digital environments;

(2) is integrated into and enhances the academic achievement of children or the educational components of a family service program in which families may be enrolled; and

(3) promotes skills (such as investigation, planning, and preparation), action, reflection, the demonstration of results, and sustainability;

Whereas family service learning has been shown to have positive 2-generational effects and encourages families to invest in their communities to improve economic and societal well-being;

Whereas, through family service learning, children and families have the opportunity to solve community issues and learn together, thereby enabling the development of life and career skills, such as flexibility and adaptability, initiative and self-direction, social and cross-cultural skills, productivity and accountability, and leadership and responsibility;

Whereas family service learning activities provide opportunities for families to improve essential skills, such as organization, research, planning, reading and writing, technological literacy, teamwork, and sharing;

Whereas families participating together in service are afforded quality time learning about their communities;

Whereas adults engaged in family service learning serve as positive role models for their children;

Whereas family service learning projects enable families to build substantive connections with their communities, develop a stronger sense of self-worth, experience a reduction in social isolation, and improve parenting skills;

Whereas family service learning has added benefits for English language learners by helping individuals and families to—

(1) feel more connected with their communities; and

(2) practice language skills;

Whereas family service learning is particularly important for at-risk families because family service learning—

(1) provides opportunities for leadership and civic engagement; and

(2) helps build the capacity to advocate for the needs of children and families; and

Whereas the value that parents place on civic engagement and relationships within the community has been shown to transfer to children who, in turn, replicate important values, such as responsibility, empathy, and caring for others: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of the week of November 4 through November 8, 2019, as

“National Family Service Learning Week” to raise public awareness about the importance of family service learning, family literacy, community service, and 2-generational learning experiences;

(2) encourages people across the United States to support family service learning and community development programs;

(3) recognizes the importance that family service learning plays in cultivating family literacy, civic engagement, and community investment; and

(4) calls upon public, private, and nonprofit entities to support family service learning opportunities to aid in the advancement of families.

SENATE RESOLUTION 413—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 4 THROUGH NOVEMBER 8, 2019, AS “NATIONAL VETERANS SMALL BUSINESS WEEK”

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RISCH, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. YOUNG, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. REED, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. KAINE, Ms. ERNST, Mr. JONES, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. DAINES, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. HAWLEY, and Ms. MCSALLY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 413

Whereas the Armed Forces of the United States train individuals with the skills, discipline, and leadership necessary to establish and operate a successful business;

Whereas there are more than 2,500,000 veteran-owned small businesses in the United States, employing more than 5,000,000 individuals;

Whereas veteran-owned businesses make up nearly 10 percent of all businesses in the United States;

Whereas veterans account for more than \$1,100,000,000,000 in business receipts every year;

Whereas veterans are 45 percent more likely to be self-employed than non-veterans;

Whereas business ownership by women veterans has increased significantly, from 97,114 in 2007 to 383,302 in 2012;

Whereas the Office of Veterans Business Development of the Small Business Administration is dedicated to maximizing the availability and usability of small business programs for—

(1) veterans;

(2) members of a reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States;

(3) members of the Armed Forces of the United States serving on active duty;

(4) transitioning service members; and

(5) the spouses, dependents, or survivors of those members and veterans;

Whereas the Small Business Administration annually serves more than 200,000 veterans, service-disabled veterans, women veterans, members and veterans of the National Guard, members and veterans of a reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States, and military spouses;

Whereas the entrepreneurship training program of the Small Business Administration, Boots to Business, has trained more than 100,000 service members, veterans, and spouses of service members and veterans since launching in 2013;

Whereas the Small Business Administration hosts events honoring National Veterans Small Business Week from November 4 through November 8, 2019;

Whereas the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives celebrate National Veterans Small Business Week during the week of November 4 through November 8, 2019; and

Whereas the week of November 4 through November 8, 2019, would be an appropriate time to celebrate National Veterans Small Business Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate joins with the Small Business Administration in—

(1) designating the week of November 4 through November 8, 2019, as “National Veterans Small Business Week”;

(2) supporting the goals and ideals of National Veterans Small Business Week;

(3) celebrating the millions of individuals in the United States, especially veterans of the United States and the spouses of those veterans, who benefit from the programs of the Small Business Administration; and

(4) expressing appreciation for the continued service to the United States by the veterans of the United States through small business ownership and entrepreneurship.

SENATE RESOLUTION 414—RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH AND CELEBRATING THE HERITAGES AND CULTURES OF NATIVE AMERICANS AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NATIVE AMERICANS TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. UDALL, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. WICKER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. MCSALLY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MORAN, Mr. KING, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 414

Whereas, from November 1, 2019, through November 30, 2019, the United States celebrates National Native American Heritage Month;

Whereas National Native American Heritage Month is an opportunity to consider and recognize the contributions of Native Americans to the history of the United States;

Whereas Native Americans are descendants of the original, indigenous inhabitants of what is now the United States;

Whereas the Bureau of the Census estimates that, in 2018, there were more than 6,800,000 individuals of American Indian and Alaska Native descent in the United States;

Whereas Native Americans maintain vibrant cultures and traditions and hold a deeply rooted sense of community;

Whereas Native Americans have moving stories of tragedy, triumph, and perseverance that need to be shared with future generations;

Whereas Native Americans speak and preserve indigenous languages, which have contributed to the English language by being used as names of individuals and locations throughout the United States;

Whereas Congress has consistently reaffirmed the support of the United States of

Tribal self-governance and self-determination and the commitment of the United States to improving the lives of all Native Americans by—

(1) enhancing health care and law enforcement resources; and

(2) improving the housing and socioeconomic status of Native Americans;

Whereas the United States is committed to strengthening the government-to-government relationship that the United States has maintained with the various Indian Tribes;

Whereas Congress has recognized the contributions of the Iroquois Confederacy and the influence of the Iroquois Confederacy on the Founding Fathers in the drafting of the Constitution of the United States with the concepts of—

(1) freedom of speech;

(2) the separation of governmental powers; and

(3) the system of checks and balances between the branches of government;

Whereas, with the enactment of the Native American Heritage Day Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-33; 123 Stat. 1922), Congress—

(1) reaffirmed the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Native American governments; and

(2) recognized the important contributions of Native Americans to the culture of the United States;

Whereas Native Americans have made distinct and important contributions to the United States and the rest of the world in many fields, including the fields of agriculture, medicine, music, language, and art;

Whereas Native Americans have distinguished themselves as inventors, entrepreneurs, spiritual leaders, and scholars;

Whereas Native Americans have served with honor and distinction in the Armed Forces and continue to serve in the Armed Forces in greater numbers per capita than any other group in the United States;

Whereas the United States has recognized the contribution of the Native American code talkers in World War I and World War II, who used indigenous languages as an unbreakable military code, saving countless lives in the United States; and

Whereas the people of the United States have reason to honor the great achievements and contributions of Native Americans and their ancestors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the month of November 2019 as “National Native American Heritage Month”;

(2) recognizes the Friday after Thanksgiving as “Native American Heritage Day” in accordance with section 2(10) of the Native American Heritage Day Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-33; 123 Stat. 1923); and

(3) urges the people of the United States to observe National Native American Heritage Month and Native American Heritage Day with appropriate programs and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 415—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE SHOULD ISSUE A COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMP SERIES HONORING WOMEN VETERANS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND THAT THE CITIZENS’ STAMP ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHOULD RECOMMEND TO THE POSTMASTER GENERAL THAT SUCH A STAMP SERIES BE ISSUED

Mr. SCHUMER (for Ms. WARREN (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. MCSALLY,

Mr. TESTER, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, and Mrs. CAPITO)) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

S. RES. 415

Whereas there are approximately 2,000,000 women veterans of the Armed Forces living in the United States, who have served the United States with honor and distinction, yet the service of those women is often forgotten and they become “invisible veterans”;

Whereas women veterans of the Armed Forces have made invaluable contributions to the United States since the American Revolution;

Whereas Deborah Sampson of Massachusetts and Margaret Corbin of New York served during the American Revolution and were wounded in combat, and Congress granted pensions to both pioneering women for their service;

Whereas Dr. Mary Edwards Walker served as a surgeon during the American Civil War and is the only woman to have been awarded the Medal of Honor;

Whereas Cathay Williams, who was born a slave, enlisted in the Regular Army disguised as a man and served in the American West for 3 years;

Whereas Lenah Sutcliffe Higbee, a nurse in the Navy who served during World War I, was the first woman to receive the Navy Cross;

Whereas Lieutenant Colonel Charity Adams Earley, Women’s Army Corps, commanded the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion during World War II, which was the only all-African-American unit of the Women’s Army Corps to serve overseas during that war;

Whereas Hazel Lee, the first Asian-American woman to become a pilot in the Armed Forces, flew with the Women Airforce Service Pilots during World War II;

Whereas Colonel Mary Louise Rasmuson enlisted in the Army as a private during World War II as part of an effort to use women as military professionals, continued to serve after the war, was appointed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower as Director of the Women’s Army Corps in 1957 and reappointed by President John F. Kennedy in 1961, was awarded the Legion of Merit for her work to successfully integrate Black women into the Women’s Army Corps, increased the strength of the Women’s Army Corps by nearly 25 percent, ensured that the Army opened 26 new military occupational specialties for active duty enlisted women and 50 such specialties for women reservists, and successfully fought for legislation to approve active duty credit for service in the Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps, the precursor to the Women’s Army Corps, to correct inequities for reserve officers of the Women’s Army Corps;

Whereas Margaret Zane Fleming and her 12 colleagues with the 1st Mobile Army Surgical Hospital who landed at Inchon, Korea, on September 15, 1950, and the many other nurses, physical therapists, pharmacists, and other women who saved lives were on the front lines of not only the Korean War but also of medical trauma care;

Whereas 8 women gave their lives while serving in the Armed Forces in Vietnam, including First Lieutenant Sharon Ann Lane, Second Lieutenant Pamela Dorothy Donovan, Lieutenant Colonel Annie Ruth Graham, Captain Mary Therese Klinker, Second Lieutenant Carol Ann Elizabeth Drazba, Second Lieutenant Elizabeth Ann Jones, Captain Eleanor Grace Alexander, and First Lieutenant Hedwig Diane Orlowski;

Whereas Specialist Lori Piestewa, a member of the Hopi Tribe, was the first Native-American woman in history to die in combat while serving in the Armed Forces and the first woman member of the Armed Forces killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Whereas First Lieutenant Ashley White and Captain Jennifer Moreno, both soldiers and members of the Cultural Support Teams of the Army, gave their lives for the United States while serving in action alongside the special operations forces they supported in Afghanistan;

Whereas United States Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Shannon Kent, cryptologic technician, wife, and mother, was killed in action in Manbij, Syria;

Whereas all women who have served in the Armed Forces throughout our Nation’s history, whether at the front, in support positions behind the lines, or here at home have marked a trail of honor for those who will follow them; and

Whereas these women warriors and millions of others should be honored for their service and recognized for their important contributions to the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the United States Postal Service should issue a commemorative postage stamp series honoring women veterans of the Armed Forces; and

(2) the Citizens’ Stamp Advisory Committee should recommend to the Postmaster General that such a stamp series be issued.

SENATE RESOLUTION 416—CALLING FOR THE PEACEFUL RETURN TO CAMBODIA OF OPPOSITION PARTY MEMBERS AND DEMOCRACY ACTIVISTS

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. CRUZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 416

Whereas the people of the United States seek to strengthen relations with the People of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and ensure that they enjoy free and fair democratic elections, the rule of law, and the fundamental freedoms of expression, association, and assembly;

Whereas the Government of Cambodia has taken a series of steps to undermine democratic institutions, human rights, and freedom of expression;

Whereas, on several occasions since 2017, the Prime Minister of Cambodia, Hun Sen, has urged opposition lawmakers to defect and join the ruling Cambodian People’s Party (CPP), and security forces coerced many such defections under threat and duress;

Whereas Cambodian authorities arrested the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) opposition leader Kem Sokha on September 3, 2017, for allegedly committing treason, and continue to restrict his movements and communications to conditions amounting to house arrest over two years later;

Whereas, having outlawed the CNRP on November 16, 2017, having banned 118 of its members from politics, and having passed amendments to its Law on Political Parties that were intended to stifle independent political parties, the CPP won all 125 National Assembly seats in the July 29, 2018, national election;

Whereas the Department of State noted in its 2018 Human Rights Report on Cambodia

instances of arbitrary deprivation of life and other unlawful or politically motivated killings, arbitrary arrest or detention, denial of fair public trial, and other violations;

Whereas Freedom House assessed Cambodia to be “not free” in its Freedom in the World 2019 report;

Whereas the crackdown by the Government of Cambodia on the political opposition and other independent voices has caused many CNRP leaders to flee abroad;

Whereas, according to Human Rights Watch, on March 12, 2019, a court criminally charged and issued arrest warrants for eight leading members of the CNRP who had left Cambodia ahead of the July 2018 election: Sam Rainsy, Mu Sochua, Ou Chanrith, Eng Chhai Eang, Men Sothavarin, Long Ry, Tob Van Chan, and Ho Vann;

Whereas the Government of Cambodia has arrested many opposition party members and democracy activists who remained in Cambodia, including bringing charges against more than 70 former CNRP members and detaining at least 35 of them since CNRP members announced in August 2019 that they might return to the country;

Whereas a Cambodian court ordered a new investigation into two Radio Free Asia journalists charged with espionage even after two years of inquiry found insufficient evidence of wrongdoing and after numerous human rights experts and a bipartisan group of United States Senators in a March 15, 2018, letter to Hun Sen argued that the charges were meritless;

Whereas former CNRP leader, Sam Rainsy, and other members of the CNRP and supporters of democracy intend to return to Cambodia on November 9, 2019;

Whereas Prime Minister Hun Sen threatened students that they would have one of their “remaining fingers cut off” if they joined the cause of the returning democracy activists and ordered the military to attack any CNRP gatherings on November 9, 2019;

Whereas according to Amnesty International, two youth activists have been arbitrarily detained since July for attempting to peacefully commemorate the murder of a popular government critic;

Whereas, on November 16, 2017, the United States Senate unanimously passed Senate Resolution 279 (115th Congress), a bipartisan resolution reaffirming the commitment of the United States to promote democracy, human rights, and the rule of law in Cambodia; and

Whereas the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-409) prohibits the authorization of appropriations to the Government of Cambodia until the Secretary of State certifies that Cambodia is taking effective steps in several areas, including the restoration of the civil and political rights of the CNRP, media, and civil society organizations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) urges the Government of Cambodia to immediately and unconditionally—

(A) release all political prisoners;

(B) drop all politically motivated charges against the CNRP and civil society activists; and

(C) restore full political rights to the CNRP;

(2) deplores—

(A) the deterioration of democracy and fundamental human rights in Cambodia;

(B) the continued imprisonment and judicial harassment of journalists, prisoners of conscience, and other political prisoners by the Government of Cambodia;

(C) the breakdown of the rule of law and the lack of due process in Cambodia; and

(D) the potential for mass arrests and violence if and when CNRP members currently overseas return to Cambodia;

(3) holds Prime Minister Hun Sen directly responsible for the safety, health, and welfare of exiled CNRP leaders and their supporters upon their return to Cambodia;

(4) calls on other governments throughout the Indo-Pacific to—

(A) urge the Government of Cambodia to allow the peaceful return of exiled CNRP leaders and their supporters; and

(B) refrain from unjustly restricting the rights of CNRP members to travel to and through their countries as they return; and

(5) recognizes, in the absence of systemic democratic reforms, the need for additional United States Government measures, including through legislation and executive action.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have 7 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 7, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 7, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 7, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 7, 2019, at 11 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 7, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Halil Suleyman Ozerden, of Mississippi, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, Steven J. Menashi, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, Barbara Lagoa and Robert J. Luck, both of Florida, both to be a United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, Sylvia Carreno-Coll, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico, John M. Gallagher, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and Sherri A. Lydon, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

The Committee on Rules and Administration is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 7, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 7, 2019, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 14 U.S.C. 194(a), as amended by Public Law 101-595, and further amended by Public Law 113-281, and upon the recommendation of the Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, appoints the following Senator to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy: The Honorable DAN SULLIVAN of Alaska.

The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Section 1295(b) of title 46, United States Code, as amended by Public Law 101-595, appoints the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy: The Honorable JERRY MORAN of Kansas (Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation) and The Honorable ROGER WICKER of Mississippi (ex officio as Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation).

SUPPLY CHAIN COUNTERINTELLIGENCE TRAINING ACT OF 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 191, S. 1388.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title. The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1388) to manage supply chain risk through counterintelligence training, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 1388) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 1388

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 “Supply Chain Counterintelligence Training Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. COUNTERINTELLIGENCE TRAINING PROGRAM TO MANAGE SUPPLY CHAIN RISK.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of

the Office of Management and Budget, in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Administrator of General Services, shall establish and implement a counterintelligence training program for officials with supply chain risk management responsibilities at executive agencies (including programmatic, information communications technology, and acquisition officials). The program shall be designed to prepare such personnel to identify and mitigate counterintelligence threats that arise during the acquisition and use throughout the lifecycle of information and communications technology.

SEC. 3. REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAM.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days for the next three years, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Administrator of General Services, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership a report on implementation of the program required under section 2.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND LEADERSHIP; INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY.**—The terms “appropriate congressional committees and leadership” and “information and communications technology” have the meanings given the terms in section 4713(k) of title 41, United States Code.

(2) **EXECUTIVE AGENCY.**—The term “executive agency” has the meaning given the term in section 133 of title 41, United States Code.

FEDERAL ADVANCE CONTRACTS ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 188, S. 979.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 979) to amend the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 to incorporate the recommendations made by the Government Accountability Office relating to advance contracts, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments; as follows:

(The parts of the bill intended to be stricken are shown in boldface brackets and the parts of the bill intended to be inserted are shown in italics.)

S. 979

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 “Federal Advance Contracts Enhancement Act” or the “FACE Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the Post-Katrina Emergency Management and Reform Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–925; 120 Stat. 1394) required the Federal

Emergency Management Agency to establish advance contracts, which are established prior to disasters and are typically needed to quickly provide life-sustaining goods and services in the immediate aftermath of a disaster;

(2) the catastrophic hurricanes and wildfires in the United States in 2017 highlighted the importance of these advance contracts in disaster response;

(3) in a report issued by the Government Accountability Office entitled “2017 Disaster Contracting: Action Needed to Better Ensure More Effective Use and Management of Advance Contracts”, the Government Accountability Office identified a number of challenges with advance contracts and recommended actions to improve management by the Federal Emergency Management Agency of these contracts for future disasters; and

(4) section 691 of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (6 U.S.C. 791) should be amended to incorporate the recommendations made by the report described in paragraph (3) to ensure more effective use and management of advance contracts.

SEC. 3. FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ADVANCE CONTRACTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 691 of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (6 U.S.C. 791) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) **UPDATED REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an updated report that contains—

“(1) the information required in the initial report under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(1); and

“(2) an updated strategy described in subsection (a)(1)(C) that clearly defines—

“(A) the objectives of advance contracts;

“(B) how advance contracts contribute to disaster response operations of the Agency; [and]

“(C) *how to maximize the award of advance contracts to small business concerns, as defined in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632); and*

“(C)(D) whether and how advance contracts should be prioritized in relation to new post-disaster contract awards.

“(f) **ADDITIONAL DUTIES OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.**—

“(1) **HEAD OF CONTRACTING.**—The Administrator shall ensure that the head of contracting activity of the Agency—

“(A) not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, updates the Disaster Contracting Desk Guide of the Agency to provide specific guidance—

“(i) on whether and under what circumstances contracting officers should consider using existing advance contracts entered into in accordance with this section prior to making new post-disaster contract awards, and include this guidance in existing semi-annual training given to contracting officers; and

“(ii) for contracting officers to perform outreach to State and local governments on the potential benefits of establishing their own pre-negotiated advance contracts;

“(B) adheres to hard copy contract file management requirements in effect to ensure that the files relating to advance contracts entered into in accordance with this section are complete and up to date, whether the files will be transferred into the Electronic Contract Filing System of the Agency or remain in hard copy format;

“(C) notifies contracting officers of the 3-day time frame requirement for entering completed award documentation into the

contract writing system of the Agency when executing notice to proceed documentation;

“(D) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, revises the reporting methodology of the Agency to ensure that all disaster contracts are included in each quarterly report submitted to the appropriate congressional committees under this section on disaster contract actions;

“(E) identifies a single centralized resource listing advance contracts entered into under this section and ensures that source is current and up to date and includes all available advance contracts; and

“(F) communicates complete and up-to-date information on available advance contracts to State and local governments to inform their advance contracting efforts.

“(2) **MASTER ACQUISITION PLANNING SCHEDULE.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Administrator shall update and implement guidance for program office and acquisition personnel of the Agency to—

“(A) identify acquisition planning time frames and considerations across the entire acquisition planning process of the Agency; and

“(B) clearly communicate the purpose and use of a master acquisition planning schedule.”.

(b) **REPORT.**—The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall regularly update the appropriate committees of Congress (as defined in section 602 of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (6 U.S.C. 701)) on the progress of the Federal Emergency Management Agency in implementing the recommendations of the Government Accountability Office in the report entitled “2017 Disaster Contracting: Action Needed to Better Ensure More Effective Use and Management of Advance Contracts”, as required under section 691 of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (6 U.S.C. 791), as amended by subsection (a).

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendments be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider made laid upon the table.

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

The committee-reported amendments were agreed to.

The bill (S. 979), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 979

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 “Federal Advance Contracts Enhancement Act” or the “FACE Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the Post-Katrina Emergency Management and Reform Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–925; 120 Stat. 1394) required the Federal Emergency Management Agency to establish advance contracts, which are established prior to disasters and are typically needed to quickly provide life-sustaining goods and services in the immediate aftermath of a disaster;

(2) the catastrophic hurricanes and wildfires in the United States in 2017 highlighted the importance of these advance contracts in disaster response;

(3) in a report issued by the Government Accountability Office entitled “2017 Disaster

Contracting: Action Needed to Better Ensure More Effective Use and Management of Advance Contracts", the Government Accountability Office identified a number of challenges with advance contracts and recommended actions to improve management by the Federal Emergency Management Agency of these contracts for future disasters; and

(4) section 691 of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (6 U.S.C. 791) should be amended to incorporate the recommendations made by the report described in paragraph (3) to ensure more effective use and management of advance contracts.

SEC. 3. FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY ADVANCE CONTRACTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 691 of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (6 U.S.C. 791) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(e) UPDATED REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an updated report that contains—

"(1) the information required in the initial report under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(1); and

"(2) an updated strategy described in subsection (a)(1)(C) that clearly defines—

"(A) the objectives of advance contracts;

"(B) how advance contracts contribute to disaster response operations of the Agency;

"(C) how to maximize the award of advance contracts to small business concerns, as defined in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632); and

"(D) whether and how advance contracts should be prioritized in relation to new post-disaster contract awards.

"(f) ADDITIONAL DUTIES OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.—

"(1) HEAD OF CONTRACTING.—The Administrator shall ensure that the head of contracting activity of the Agency—

"(A) not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, updates the Disaster Contracting Desk Guide of the Agency to provide specific guidance—

"(i) on whether and under what circumstances contracting officers should consider using existing advance contracts entered into in accordance with this section prior to making new post-disaster contract awards, and include this guidance in existing semi-annual training given to contracting officers; and

"(ii) for contracting officers to perform outreach to State and local governments on the potential benefits of establishing their own pre-negotiated advance contracts;

"(B) adheres to hard copy contract file management requirements in effect to ensure that the files relating to advance contracts entered into in accordance with this section are complete and up to date, whether the files will be transferred into the Electronic Contract Filing System of the Agency or remain in hard copy format;

"(C) notifies contracting officers of the 3-day time frame requirement for entering completed award documentation into the contract writing system of the Agency when executing notice to proceed documentation;

"(D) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, revises the reporting methodology of the Agency to ensure that all disaster contracts are included in each quarterly report submitted to the appropriate congressional committees under this section on disaster contract actions;

"(E) identifies a single centralized resource listing advance contracts entered into under this section and ensures that source is current and up to date and includes all available advance contracts; and

"(F) communicates complete and up-to-date information on available advance contracts to State and local governments to inform their advance contracting efforts.

"(2) MASTER ACQUISITION PLANNING SCHEDULE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Administrator shall update and implement guidance for program office and acquisition personnel of the Agency to—

"(A) identify acquisition planning time frames and considerations across the entire acquisition planning process of the Agency; and

"(B) clearly communicate the purpose and use of a master acquisition planning schedule."

(b) REPORT.—The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall regularly update the appropriate committees of Congress (as defined in section 602 of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (6 U.S.C. 701)) on the progress of the Federal Emergency Management Agency in implementing the recommendations of the Government Accountability Office in the report entitled "2017 Disaster Contracting: Action Needed to Better Ensure More Effective Use and Management of Advance Contracts", as required under section 691 of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (6 U.S.C. 791), as amended by subsection (a).

DIVISIONAL REALIGNMENT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS ACT OF 2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1123 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1123) to amend title 28, United States Code, to modify the composition of the eastern judicial district of Arkansas, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which was reported from the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, 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.

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

The bill (H.R. 1123) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 4 THROUGH NOVEMBER 8, 2019, AS "NATIONAL FAMILY SERVICE LEARNING WEEK"

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 412, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 412) expressing support for the designation of the week of November 4 through November 8, 2019, as "National Family Service Learning Week".

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 412) was agreed to.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

NATIONAL VETERANS SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 413, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 413) designating the week of November 4 through November 8, 2019, as "National Veterans Small Business Week".

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 413) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH AND CELEBRATING THE HERITAGES AND CULTURES OF NATIVE AMERICANS AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NATIVE AMERICANS TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 414, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 414) recognizing National Native American Heritage Month and celebrating the heritages and cultures of Native Americans and the contributions of Native Americans to the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 414) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2019, THROUGH TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the

Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for pro forma session only, with no business being conducted, on Friday, November 8, at 8 a.m. I further ask that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, November 8, it next convenes at 3 p.m. Tuesday, November 12, and that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Wolf nomination.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 8 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:56 p.m., adjourned until Friday, November 8, 2019, at 8 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nomination received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

DAN R. BROUILLETTE, OF TEXAS, TO BE SECRETARY OF ENERGY, VICE JAMES RICHARD PERRY, RESIGNING.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate November 7, 2019:

THE JUDICIARY

JENNIFER PHILPOTT WILSON, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

LEE PHILIP RUDOLFSKY, OF ARKANSAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS.

WILLIAM JOSEPH NARDINI, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT.