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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JACKY ROSEN, a Senator from the State of Nevada.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, You stretch out the starry curtain of the Heavens. May Your Name be kept holy. As our law-makers depend on Your guidance, keep their feet on the path You have chosen. Lord, inspire them to make a commitment to always do what is right as You give them the wisdom to discern it. Open Your hands to bless their work, supplying their needs out of the bounty of Your celestial riches. Mighty God, may Your glory continue forever.

Lord, thank You for the commitment and competence of the great spring 2022 Senate page class. Bless them as they prepare to leave us tomorrow.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 9, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable JACKY ROSEN, a Senator from the State of Nevada, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. ROSEN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

HONORING OUR PROMISE TO ADDRESS COMPREHENSIVE TOXICS ACT OF 2021—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3967, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3967), to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Tester/Moran amendment No. 5051, in the nature of a substitute.

Schumer amendment No. 5065 (to amendment No. 5051), to add an effective date.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, this year we have already seen more mass shootings in America than we have had days in the year—more than one a day on average. The prevalence of guns, their ease of access, and the hateful motivations of mass shooters have all mixed into a toxic brew that is tearing America apart. People are asking,

what is going on, and why can't Congress protect us?

Yesterday, our House colleagues heard from those affected most: the parents of a young girl murdered in Uvalde, a student who played dead by covering herself in her friend's blood, and the mom of a Buffalo survivor who painted the gruesome picture of the bullet holes on her son's neck, back, and leg.

These were harrowing, gut-wrenching testimonies. That Congress has not acted in decades in response to these acts of violence is shameful. It used to be different. About 30 years ago, I was the author of the Brady bill and worked with Republicans and law enforcement to get strong gun safety laws passed. That was a different era. But the lesson from back then remains clear today: The right laws can make a real difference in reducing gun deaths. Because those laws were on the books, it is very likely that tens of thousands of people are alive and healthy who would not have been.

Right now, the Senate is trying to break that streak of inaction—the 30-year streak of inaction since we were able to pass Brady and the assault weapons ban—by working toward meaningful legislation on gun violence.

Yesterday, a bipartisan group of Democrats and Republicans met again to continue working toward a bipartisan compromise. This morning, my colleague Senator MURPHY reported that the group is making good progress, and they hope to get something real done very soon. As soon as the bipartisan group comes to agreement, I want to bring a measure to the floor for a vote as quickly as possible.

The overwhelming consensus of our caucus, of gun safety advocates, and of the American people is that getting something real done on gun violence is worth pursuing, even if we cannot get everything that we know we need.

The work of curing our Nation of mass shootings will continue well after

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



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this debate concludes. But at this moment, we have a moral obligation to try for real progress because taking tangible steps to reduce gun violence is critically important.

Americans are sick and tired of going through the same grieving cycle over and over again, only for Congress to do nothing. They are enraged that even after shootings in Sandy Hook, Parkland, San Bernardino, El Paso, Boulder, Pittsburgh, Atlanta, and so many others, that nothing—nothing—has changed.

We hope this time around something will change at last. I hope that very soon we can see a deal come together. I encourage my colleagues to keep their talks going so we can act on it very quickly.

JANUARY 6 HEARINGS

Madam President, on the January 6 hearings, tonight, the Nation will tune in to the House Select Committee on January 6 as they begin their first public hearings on the Capitol insurrection. Tonight's hearings will be a watershed moment in the fight to protect our democracy from the Big Lie of the hard right.

The committee will lay bare the truth that the American people must know; first, that there was tremendous violence. There are still many out there who say there wasn't violence. There was. The pictures show it. The eyewitnesses testify to it.

And the committee will lay bare the truth that the American people must know; that Donald Trump was at the heart of a coordinated effort to overturn the 2020 elections, to overturn our constitutional order, and inflict permanent damage upon our democracy. It will be essential viewing.

But in one of the most cowardly journalistic decisions in modern memory, FOX News—one of the biggest amplifiers of the Big Lie about January 6, about Donald Trump, and about the election—will not broadcast tonight's hearing.

FOX News's decision not to air the biggest hearing in modern history should end any debate that they are not a real news organization. FOX News is rapidly becoming a propaganda machine of the hard right, and it is as plain as day that they are scared of their viewers learning the truth about January 6.

FOX News's decision not to air the January 6 hearings is dangerous, cowardly, and shameful, given that they have spent more than a year spreading the Big Lie and misinforming their viewers.

Instead of telling the truth, they have isolated their viewers in an alternative reality of conspiracy theories that is immensely damaging to our democracy. Even the so-called liberal media which FOX News regularly attacks tries to tell both sides.

FOX News is afraid of telling both sides because they are afraid of the truth, and they are afraid their viewers may learn that FOX News has lied to them.

I urge FOX News to change course very soon. The press has an obligation—always has had that obligation—not to hide the truth from the American people, no matter how painful or inconvenient.

And as a nation, we have a duty to never forget what happened on January 6. The direct assault on our democracy and the dangers of that day, sadly, remain still with us.

HONORING OUR PACT ACT OF 2021

Madam President, now, on the PACT Act, a happier note, today, the Senate will continue consideration of the most important veteran healthcare expansion in decades, the PACT Act, authored by my colleagues Senators TESTER and MORAN—bipartisan.

We want to get this bill done as soon as we can. We can't have dilatory or destructive amendments to this bill because it is too important for our veterans' well-being to delay or destroy it.

For years, I have worked extensively with veterans, veterans service organizations, and advocates, including Jon Stewart and John Deal, who all say that the VA rules must be changed to ensure sick veterans get the care they need.

They volunteered, went off to war, and were exposed to toxins. That is a cost of war, and the American people cannot let them down.

The bill, which could benefit 3.5 million veterans who have been exposed to toxic chemicals in the line of duty, represents that change. For the sake of our veterans, there is no reason—no reason—not to pass this bill A-S-A-P, and I hope that is precisely what we can do.

SHIPPING

Madam President, on shipping, next week, the House is to vote on a much needed bill, passed unanimously by the Senate in April, to lower costs and relieve supply chains by reforming unfair shipping practices that hurt exporters and consumers alike.

Rising costs are top of the mind right now for the American people, and one of the more flummoxing causes of inflation is the crushing backlog that we are seeing at our ports. We have all seen the pictures of scores of ships lining up in ports, from Los Angeles to Savannah, to Seattle, to my home port of New York and New Jersey.

These backlogs have created serious price hikes. According to one study from earlier this year, the price to transport a container from China to the west coast of the United States costs 12 times—12 times—as much as it did 2 years ago, and the American consumer is paying the price. And it hurts both ways when shipping costs go up: It affects exports that we send overseas and imports that come back. It is a double whammy, whacking the American people's pocketbooks and wallets. At the end of the day, the American consumer ends up paying the higher price.

So I am very glad that the House will finally act on the Senate-passed ship-

ping bill next week. The shipping reform bill will help us lower costs. It will clear our ports, relieve our supply chains, and American families will feel the benefit.

I want to thank my colleagues Senators KLOBUCHAR and THUNE, the authors of the legislation, as well as the fine work of Senator CANTWELL, for leading this legislation earlier this year out of committee, onto the floor, and passing here in the Senate.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, 2 years ago, the Senate Democratic leader stood on the steps of the Supreme Court and threatened two Justices by name. "You will pay the price," he shouted. "You won't know what hit you." A month ago, after the precedent-breaking leak of a draft opinion, top Democrats intensified the reckless talk. Hillary Clinton said the Court was poised to "kill and subjugate women." Leader SCHUMER and Speaker PELOSI said the Court would be "ripp[ing] up the Constitution." Some of the most powerful people in the country pushing total hysteria over the possibility that Justices may—may—overturn a decision that even Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said was badly reasoned.

Far-left activists publicized Justices' private addresses and encouraged angry people to flock to their homes. President Biden and his White House were asked to condemn these intimidation tactics, and they refused. I wrote to Attorney General Garland about a month ago, asking why he wasn't enforcing the laws on the books already against judicial intimidation.

Look, everybody saw where this climate might lead. So, yesterday morning, U.S. marshals arrested a deranged person who traveled to Washington from California in order to assassinate a Supreme Court Justice at his house. He has reportedly been charged with attempted murder. The FBI says the would-be assassin was armed and equipped for a break-in. He told authorities that he was trying to think about how to give his life a purpose. Apparently, it was only when he came across the Justice's address posted online that it occurred to him to attempt a murder-suicide. He explained that his problem with this Justice was ideological, citing abortion and the Second Amendment.

While this would-be assassin was making his plan and traveling across

the country, House Democrats have spent weeks—weeks—blocking bipartisan legislation to strengthen security for the Justices and their families.

This bipartisan bill passed the Senate unanimously in early May. Chairman DURBIN is a strong supporter. But inexplicably—inexplicably—this urgent and uncontroversial bill has been sitting on Speaker PELOSI's desk ever since. The same House Democrats whose irresponsible rhetoric has contributed to this dangerous climate are themselves blocking added security for the Justices and their spouses and their children. Even last night—last night—even after this arrest was made, even after a leftwing group published an ominous social media post concerning a school that a Justice's children attend, when Leader MCCARTHY asked consent to pass the uncontroversial bill, House Democrats objected to it.

Meanwhile, the Biden Department of Justice, under Attorney General Garland, continues to flatly ignore section 1507 of the Criminal Code, which would appear to make it a Federal crime to protest at the homes of Federal judges to influence them over a pending case. That is the law right now.

So this has been a shameful and disturbing two-step from Washington Democrats. First they use reckless rhetoric that helps fuel the dangerous climate, and then they refuse to do their jobs and address the problem. The same far left that has spent years trying to improperly pressure the Court is now aiding and abetting this illegal intimidation campaign through total inaction.

So why won't President Biden call on his supporters to leave the Justices alone?

President Biden, call on your supporters to leave the Justices alone.

Why won't the Attorney General of the United States enforce existing law? Why won't the Speaker stop blocking a bipartisan security bill that passed the Senate unanimously?

So it is hard to avoid concluding that perhaps some Democrats may want this dangerous climate hanging over the Justices' heads as they finish up this term—a disgraceful—disgraceful—dereliction of duty. This is antithetical to the rule of law. The Speaker of the House and the Attorney General must honor their oaths to the Constitution and do their jobs.

I understand Democrats want to stage a big spectacle this week about what they claim is their opposition to political violence, but in reality, they are going out of their way to block concrete steps to prevent political violence.

FOREIGN POLICY

Madam President, now on an entirely separate matter, 1 year ago yesterday, the Biden administration announced its withdrawal from Afghanistan had reached a halfway point.

Analysis after analysis has confirmed what was clear to many of us in real

time: The President's shoddy plans for a reckless pullout were doomed to disaster from the start.

Back in February, an Army investigation found that in the run-up to President Biden's botched retreat, his senior national security and diplomatic advisers were "not seriously planning for an evacuation" and not paying attention to "what was happening on the ground." That is an Army investigation of the withdrawal.

Last month, the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction blasted the administration's bad judgment before Congress. He explained that removing U.S. military and contractor support to our Afghan partners was "the single most important factor" in the collapse—the collapse—of Afghanistan's resistance to the Taliban.

It is not just that this giant policy failure should have been foreseeable to the Biden administration; it was, in fact, foreseen. Experts spent months warning that the President's policies would create chaos. I spent months saying the very same thing.

Now many of the worst predictions about the aftermath are coming true before our eyes. Our country and our partners are facing needlessly heightened risk from terrorists because of how the Biden administration botched Afghanistan. Yet the administration is still in denial.

In a letter to Congress just yesterday, the Commander in Chief claimed the United States "remains postured to address threats" to both our homeland and our interests "that may arise from inside Afghanistan." But the reality is that Pentagon leaders have been clear about the dramatic ways the withdrawal has limited our ability to identify, to target, and to strike terrorists in Afghanistan.

The former commander of U.S. Central Command says that forcing U.S. air assets to travel longer distances to reach Afghan airspace means severely limiting the time they can spend actually performing counterterrorism missions—just as we predicted.

A brandnew report from the lead inspector general for our ongoing counterterrorism operations further confirms that the Biden administration's mistakes have put us way, way behind the curve. Without human intelligence or bases in the country, the United States is already suffering from less insight into emerging terror threats. Our sources are drying up just as we predicted.

We haven't conducted a single strike against a military target in Afghanistan since the last military personnel left Kabul, and that isn't because there aren't any terrorists there. As the IG report confirms, it is because of "logistical challenges and limited intelligence."

The Taliban-Haqqani government in Kabul is not just a state sponsor of terrorism, it is literally a government made up of terrorists and kidnappers with deep ties to Al Qaeda.

Even as the Biden team continues to pretend that over-the-horizon operations are not inadequate in Afghanistan, they are implicitly acknowledging that same insufficiency in other theaters. Last month, President Biden redeployed U.S. troops to Somalia, reestablishing a limited but real presence intended to help local partners prevent their country from becoming a terrorist haven. So President Biden's own actions in Somalia give rise to the false claims in Afghanistan. In point of fact, the longest term vision about counterterrorism this White House has managed to lay out is their obsession—obsession—with someday shutting down the Guantanamo Bay detention center entirely.

I have yet to hear any coherent plans for what the Biden administration intends to do with the dangerous killers currently held there. Will they continue to rely on third countries to detain terrorists? That is the strategy that made possible the Taliban's massive jailbreak of thousands of hardened terrorists from Bagram after this administration fled Afghanistan.

Does the administration intend to send terrorists to Syria to be held indefinitely by a nongovernmental entity like the Syrian Defense Forces? In that case, how long is the Biden administration prepared to remain in Syria to make sure that ISIS, Hezbollah, or the Assad regime can't facilitate another giant jailbreak?

The American people and our coalition partners deserve a clear, coherent counterterrorism strategy that leaves our homeland safer and our partnerships stronger.

The Biden administration is providing, unfortunately, exactly the opposite.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, before I begin, I would like to express my dismay at House Democrats' decision last night to block legislation to provide enhanced security for Supreme Court Justices and their families.

Due to the unprecedented leak of an early draft of the Supreme Court's Dobbs decision and the resulting hysteria from members of the pro-abortion left, the Supreme Court asked Congress for additional authorities to protect Justices' families. This happened 4 weeks ago. And yesterday's arrest of an armed man near Justice Kavanaugh's home—a man who told police that he intended to kill a Supreme Court Justice and has been charged with attempted murder—made clear just how needed that protection is.

The Supreme Court security legislation in question passed the Senate unanimously 4 weeks ago but has faced inexplicable delays in the House of Representatives.

This should not be a partisan issue. The Senate Democratic Whip said just yesterday that the House should pass this legislation.

And I really thought that yesterday's arrest of an individual bent on assassinating a Supreme Court Justice would have forced House Democrats to abandon political gains and provide this urgently needed protection.

There is no excuse for further delay. One press report suggests that Democrats may be rethinking their opposition. I hope that is true. House Democrats should abandon the political games today and pass this legislation.

STUDENT LOANS

Madam President, recent reporting suggests that President Biden may be contemplating forgiving \$10,000 in Federal student loan debt per borrower. That is a bad idea for many reasons. It is difficult really to know where to start, but let me begin by pointing out the obvious: that forgiving \$10,000 in Federal student loan debt will do absolutely nothing to address the underlying problem and, in fact, would likely make things much worse.

The price of higher education has risen stratospherically in recent decades. The cost of 1 year of attendance at some colleges—just 1 year—is more than many Americans' yearly salaries. And that is a problem. But forgiving \$10,000 of student loan debt would do absolutely nothing to fix the problem of soaring tuition costs. As I said, it would very likely make things worse.

What incentive would colleges have to rein in costs if they could be confident that part of their students' bill would eventually be picked up by the Federal Government; because, of course, no one should be deceived into thinking that student loan forgiveness would be a one-time thing?

One estimate suggests that the student loan burden in this country would return to its current amount within 4 years—4 years—of \$10,000 in debt being forgiven, and calls to forgive more debt would undoubtedly come much sooner.

Future graduates are very likely to want the same deal that would be offered to graduates today—the wiping away of \$10,000 in debt—which brings us to another problem: some students opting to take on unrealistic levels of debt to finance their educations.

How much greater is that problem going to be if students think that the Government is likely to step in and forgive some of the debt that they have agreed to repay? It is very easy to imagine a student feeling free to take on more debt than he or she otherwise would, believing that the Government is likely to reduce the resulting debt burden.

Another massive problem with President Biden's plan is, of course, its complete unfairness. Under President

Biden's plan, an individual who just finished paying his or her student loans after years of work would not receive a penny. Meanwhile, a student who graduated a month ago and hasn't yet paid a dime on his or her loans could see a substantial part of his or her debt wiped away.

The President's plan is also incredibly unfair to the tens of millions of Americans without any student loan debt who would be asked to subsidize a student loan debt of a small percentage of Americans. Somewhere around two-thirds of millennials have no student debt, either because they didn't attend college or didn't take out any loans to attend college. The president's plan is unfair to those who avoided loans by working their way through school or choosing a lower-cost college option. It is unfair to parents who worked for years to ensure that they could finance their kids' education. And it is unfair to those who chose not to attend a traditional 4-year college and, instead, trained in one of the many essential trades we depend on, from plumbing to air conditioning to broadband installation, at a significantly lower-cost community college or technical school.

Another problem with the President's plan is what it would teach about the sanctity of contracts. While it may, at times, be ill-advised, students freely enter into the agreements when they take out a loan. Should we really be teaching that agreements and contracts mean nothing, that people can incur debt and then not have to pay it off?

Another important point to make here is that the average debt for undergraduate education in this country is not as crippling as it might be portrayed. Now, there is no question that there are students out there who were encouraged to take on unrealistic levels of debt and are currently struggling with huge debt burdens made up of private as well as Federal loans, but the average debt, the average debt for an undergraduate education is somewhere around \$29,000. That is not chump change, for sure, but it is also not an unmanageable level of debt for the average college graduate—especially with the availability of extended repayment plans and income-driven repayment programs.

Average student loan debt rises substantially for those with advanced degrees, and there are certainly those who take on far too much debt for graduate education, but it is also important to know that those with advanced degrees have higher—and in some cases much higher—earning potential.

Doctors, for example, take on medical debt north of \$190,000 on average, but once they have completed their education and training they can expect to make a robust—sometimes a very robust—six figures per year, making repaying debt of that size a very feasible proposition.

There is no question that the cost of higher education is out of control and

that students sometimes take on unrealistic levels of debt to pay for it. But forgiving student loan debt is not the answer for the reasons I have mentioned, among others. Instead, we should be exploring ways to drive down education costs.

We should be also highlighting affordable education options like our Nation's community colleges and technical schools. These institutions, like the outstanding tech schools we have in South Dakota, provide students with associate's degrees, certificates, apprenticeships, opportunities to learn a trade, and more.

There are also things we can do to help students pay off loans without forcing taxpayers to shoulder the burden. In December of 2020, Congress passed a 5-year version of legislation that I introduced with Senator WARNER to allow employers to help employees repay their loans. Our Employer Participation in Repayment Act amends the Educational Assistance Program to permit employers to make tax-free payments on their employees' student loans. It is a win for employees, who get help paying off their student loans. And it is a win for employers who have a new option for attracting and retaining talented workers.

Our bill isn't a cure-all, but it will certainly help ease the pain of paying back student loans for a number of Americans. I am pleased that it was enacted into law for a 5-year period, and I hope at some point Congress will act to make it permanent.

Another big thing we can do, of course, is to make sure that graduates have access to good-paying jobs. This is key to enabling people to pay off their debt, and we should resolve to build on the economic progress that we had made prepandemic and focus on policies that will allow our economy to thrive.

Republicans are not alone in thinking that forgiving \$10,000 in student loan debt is fraught with problems. As one Democrat Senator said:

An across-the-board cancellation of college debt does nothing to address the absurd cost of college or fix our broken student loan program. It offers nothing to Americans who paid off their college debts or those who chose a lower-priced college to go to as a way of avoiding going into debt or taking on debt. . . . [R]eally importantly, it ignores the majority of Americans who never went to college, some of whom have debts just as staggering. . . .

That is from one of our Democrat colleagues here in the Senate.

The New York Times editorial board, not exactly known for toeing the Republican line, noted:

Canceling this debt, even in the limited amounts the White House is considering, would set a bad precedent and do nothing to change the fact that future students will graduate with yet more debt—along with the blind hope of another, future amnesty. Such a move is legally dubious, economically unsound, politically fraught and educationally problematic.

That was from the New York Times editorial board.

With inflation near a 40-year high, with the President's approval rating hitting a new low, and with Democrats' prospects for November looking less rosy, it is not exactly surprising that the President would look toward student loan forgiveness as a way of distracting voters or that some Democrats are reportedly pushing for student loan forgiveness as a way to boost their chances in November; but I very much hope that the President will decide that temporary political gain is not a good reason to put American taxpayers on the hook for billions of dollars in student loan debt that is not their own.

As the New York Times noted, the President's plan is "legally dubious, economically unsound, politically fraught, and educationally problematic."

I strongly, strongly encourage the President to abandon a plan that even the Democratic Speaker of the House has suggested he doesn't have the authority to implement.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, at 11:45 a.m. today, the Senate proceed to executive session and vote on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 856, the nomination of Robert Steven Huie, as provided under the previous order, and that, following the vote, the Senate resume legislative session.

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

JANUARY 6 HEARINGS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this evening, the Select Committee to investigate the January 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol will hold its first public hearing.

For more than 10 months, the January 6 Select Committee has labored diligently to discover and document the truth about the day we nearly lost our democracy. This evening, the committee will begin to lay out publicly, for the first time, the coordinated plan in place to overturn the results of the 2020 Presidential election and prevent the peaceful transition of power to a new administration in America. Those are incredible words that I have just spoken, but they reflect the reality of January 6, 2021.

Among the witnesses will be Capitol Police Officer Caroline Edwards, one of the more than 140 Capitol and Metropolitan police officers who was injured when the mob attacked the Capitol.

To Officer Edwards and all of the police officers who defended American democracy that day and who continue to

protect this Capitol every day, we owe more than our thanks.

January 6 revealed to the world how fragile democracy can be, even in America. Keeping our democracy requires vigilance and truth. Often, it requires sacrifice, and there must be a willingness to accept that truth. It is regrettable—no, it is shameful—that our Republican colleagues in the Senate filibustered the creation of an independent, bipartisan commission to investigate what happened on January 6.

I recall that moment, and I am sure the Presiding Officer does as well. It was slightly after 2 o'clock, just a few minutes after 2 o'clock. Vice President Pence was presiding over the U.S. Senate as we went through the orderly, constitutional process of counting the electoral votes. I looked up from my chair to see the Secret Service come in and physically remove—quickly remove—the Vice President from that chair. The events that unfolded in the next few minutes were hard to imagine could ever occur in the United States of America. We were told to sit safely in our chairs, in that this was a secure Chamber, and be prepared for other staffers from around the Capitol to join us. Not 10 minutes later, a member of the Capitol Police stood before us and said: As quickly as possible, evacuate this Chamber.

It is hard to imagine this in the United States of America. We have seen the videos. We know what happened. There is no doubt as to what happened that day and what an impression it must have left on the rest of the world. What would we think, at this moment in time, if a mob with battering rams beat down the doors of Parliament and entered the House of Commons and the House of Lords? Would we not say on this side of the ocean, my God, what has happened to the United Kingdom? Can this government survive? Can that country survive? The same questions were being asked about America because of that insurrectionist mob on January 6.

The proposal was made—and it was a legitimate, thoughtful, good-faith proposal—to establish a bipartisan commission to get to the bottom of it—who was behind it?—and to ask the hard questions. What role did President Donald Trump play in what unfolded after his rally on January 6, 2021? Some people don't even want to raise the question, let alone hear the answer.

History demands the truth, unless we have reached the point that we saw in the times of the Soviet Union when they refused to print in their daily newspapers plane crashes. It was bad news, and they didn't want to peddle any bad news in the official partisan organ, *Izvestia*. No. That was the reality of the Soviet Union—deny the truth, rewrite history. We see the same thing occurring today, but the American people are going to learn the truth.

All three major broadcast networks and all but one cable news network will

carry this evening's hearing live. What cable news network might not require the broadcast of this? I am going to guess FOX News, and I am right. Think about that for a second. Clearly, to FOX News, which profits off the Big Lie of Donald Trump, it matters more to continue that relationship than to tell the truth to their viewers.

The members of the Select Committee have undertaken their duty with uncommon courage, and I want to single out, in particular, Congressman ADAM KINZINGER from the State of Illinois. We are not close friends, but we have worked on a few things together. I have the highest regard and admiration for the courage that he has shown throughout this travail; and the fact that he would volunteer, against the wishes of the Republican House leadership, to make this committee bipartisan is a tribute to his citizenship and to his commitment to this Nation.

The same thing, of course, is true for Representative LIZ CHENEY. She has a lot at stake. Representative KINZINGER has announced his retirement. She continues to represent Wyoming, and I hope she will for many years to come. I may disagree with her on virtually every other issue, but I have respect for her courage in serving on this bipartisan committee.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS

Mr. President, on another topic, it is no secret that the Federal Bureau of Prisons has been plagued by misconduct. One investigation after another has revealed a culture of abuse, mismanagement, corruption, torture, and death that reaches all the way to the top.

One of the most troubling investigations was published last week by National Public Radio and the Marshall Project. The title of the report reads: "How the Newest Federal Prison Became One of the Deadliest"—the facility in question I know well: U.S. Penitentiary Thomson. It is located in my home State of Illinois. In fact, it is a facility that I officially and originally encouraged the Federal Government to purchase in order to reduce overcrowding in high security prisons. The opening of U.S. Penitentiary Thomson was supposed to improve safety within the Bureau of Prisons, but the reality, sadly, has been the exact opposite.

According to this report, seven inmates at U.S. Penitentiary Thomson have died in just 2 years. Five of them were reportedly murdered by other inmates; two died by suicide. And those deaths are just a snapshot of the grim reality of this facility—the deadly, grim reality. The investigation paints a picture of rampant abuse by prison staff. This alleged abuse includes the excessive use of two kinds of painful restraints—ambulatory restraints and four-point restraints. The "four" refers to each of a person's limbs, which, under this technique, are chained to a concrete bed, rendering the individual immobile.

This is an American penitentiary. The Bureau of Prisons' protocol says

that these restraints should be used sparingly and only to momentarily—momentarily—restrain an inmate who presents an active danger to himself or others.

According to this report, some guards at U.S. Penitentiary Thomson have, apparently, made a habit of regularly using these restraints on inmates—not momentarily but regularly. In some cases, inmates have reportedly been left chained for hours and days.

A lawyer who has spoken with U.S. Penitentiary Thomson inmates said:

[The inmates] are denied food. They are denied water. Many of them report being left in their own waste. It's really akin to a torture chamber.

This is an American prison in my State.

The use of restraints and shackles has become so common, inmates have coined a term to describe the scars they leave on their arms and legs. It is known as the "Thomson tattoo."

The report also alleges that the staff at U.S. Penitentiary Thomson have gained a reputation for stoking tensions between cellmates. Make no mistake, this is a special management unit. These are inmates who can be very dangerous, and I understand that. I understood it when the penitentiary was opened.

One example that was highlighted in this report is indicative of the challenge. It was the murder of Matthew Phillips, a U.S. Penitentiary Thomson inmate who died in 2020. Mr. Phillips was a Jewish man with a visible Star of David tattoo. The corrections officers at U.S. Penitentiary Thomson reportedly locked Mr. Phillips in a recreation cage with two known White supremacists. These inmates beat Mr. Phillips until he was unconscious, and he died from his injuries 3 days later. Both men have since been indicted by the Justice Department on murder and hate crime charges.

Following the publication of this shocking report, I joined Senator DUCKWORTH, my colleague from Illinois, and Illinois Congresswoman CHERI BUSTOS, sending a letter to the Justice Department's Inspector General Michael Horowitz. In it, we urged him to launch a full-scale, immediate investigation into the failures at Thomson prison.

I spoke with General Horowitz yesterday. He confirmed that his office is investigating the deaths at Thomson, along with many other abuses in the Bureau of Prisons.

But this report about U.S. Penitentiary Thomson is only the most recent look into the house of horrors that is the Bureau of Prisons, the Federal Bureau of Prisons. We already have ample evidence of a pattern of neglect and abuse that has been embedded in their bureaucracy.

Consider, for instance, the Bureau's overuse of restricted housing—the practice of separating inmates from the general prison population, isolating them alone or with one other person

for 24 hours at a time. The practice can cause severe mental anguish for inmates and can severely harm the prospects for ever reentering society.

Much like the use of four-point restraints, restricted housing should, as the Justice Department noted in 2016, "be used rarely, applied fairly, and subjected to reasonable constraints." That is the standard, the published standard, of the Bureau of Prisons.

During the Obama administration, I held two hearings, which are still fresh on my mind they were so gripping, on the issue of solitary confinement. Following those hearings, the Justice Department took steps to reduce and reform the Bureau of Prisons' use of restricted housing. We started to make real progress.

Unfortunately, the progress was erased during the Trump administration. And since the former President left office, the Biden Department of Justice has had plenty of time to change course and leadership. And I have urged them to do so.

A year and a half into this administration, nearly 8 percent of BOP inmates are still being held in restricted housing. That is the same level it was under President Trump. That is just plain unacceptable. The continued overuse of restricted housing and the alleged abuses at Thomson are among the many instances of misconduct and mismanagement that have occurred under the failed leadership of Bureau of Prisons' Director Michael Carvajal.

In light of those earlier reports detailing similar failures, I called for Mr. Carvajal's resignation last November. So it was welcome news when, about 6 weeks after I asked for his resignation, he announced it. Mr. Carvajal said he was going to resign.

But that was January. Now we are in June, and the Justice Department has shown little progress or urgency in naming Carvajal's replacement. As a result, he is still running and mismanaging the Bureau of Prisons.

This recent investigation at Thomson makes it clear there are no excuses for further delay. So today I am calling on President Biden, Attorney General Garland, and Deputy Attorney General Monaco to do one of two things; either name a new reform-minded Director to replace Carvajal immediately or appoint an Acting Director until a permanent selection is made. This cannot wait. We need to act before another inmate dies in the custody and care of this Federal Government.

In the coming weeks, the Senate Judiciary Committee, which I chair, will be holding a hearing on the Bureau of Prisons. We will examine these allegations of abuse at Thomson and other facilities. We need answers from the Biden administration on the failure to reduce the use of restricted housing, and we will discuss what BOP must do to address the staffing crisis that has contributed to this disastrous situation.

The crisis demands the attention of the highest ranking officials within the

Department of Justice. It has been long overdue. It is time for us to have competent, principled leadership at the Bureau of Prisons.

I am not condemning every person who works at that Agency, for sure. I have met many of them and respect them. But those who are guilty of this misconduct need to be held accountable, and new leadership is imperative.

It has been a long time since we have had that kind of competent, principled leadership. I believe that Attorney General Garland and Deputy Attorney General Monaco will choose the right leader to clear out the bureaucratic rot and improve with significant reforms. But we need to act quickly. Lives are at stake.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, over the last couple of weeks, many of us have spent a lot of time thinking about the horrific shootings in Uvalde, Philadelphia, Buffalo, and elsewhere.

Unfortunately, these are familiar scenes that we have seen before, and we would like to try to find a way to reduce the likelihood of their reoccurrence in the future if there is anything we can do here in the Senate to make that possible. So I have been working particularly with Senator MURPHY, who was my partner on the Fix NICS bill that we passed in 2018.

Senator MURPHY comes from a blue State, Connecticut; I come from a red State, Texas. Yet, in that example, we were able to take the horrible events of Sutherland Springs, where innocent parishioners were gunned down at a small Baptist church outside of San Antonio, and take out of that tragedy something good, which is a bill we call Fix NICS, the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

Since that was signed into law, 11½ million new records have been uploaded into the background check system, and I believe that has saved lives.

You will recall, in that case, the shooter was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, but, unfortunately, he had a troubled history: felony convictions, domestic violence, mental health adjudications. None of that was in the background check system. It should have been, and it would have disqualified him had it been known. But he did what so often happens; he lied, and then he bought—the lie and buy—and tragedy ensued. We were all sickened by these shootings, and we are hyperaware of the public interest.

The most common refrain I hear is: Do something. Do something. Unfortunately, it gets a little less specific after that what exactly should be done, and that is where the hard work begins.

But, as before, I am optimistic that we can find something that protects the rights of law-abiding citizens under our Constitution, under the Second Amendment, who, I believe, are not a

threat to public safety, and focus on people with criminal records, people with mental health challenges, like young Salvador Ramos in Uvalde, TX; like Adam Lanza at Sandy Hook.

The profile is pretty well established—young, alienated, disaffected, mentally challenged boys who lack access to treatment which will help them manage their mental illness and who descend into a pit of despair, ultimately resulting in their desire not only to harm themselves but to take other people with them. That profile is well established in the scientific literature. And the New York Times did an excellent piece a couple of weeks ago on that profile. So I think that gives us a little bit of a roadmap for the sorts of things we might do to deal with that.

What makes this more challenging than, for example, the Fix NICS bill after Sutherland Springs is that was a singular point of failure. Here, we see multiple points of failure, and I think we need to address as many as we can.

So as I mentioned, the mental health issue looms large. We know that during the 2 years, where many students were isolated at home, trying to keep up with their studies virtually, many of them have languished, many of them have fallen behind. And because they have been isolated from their peers at a time when their social development is the most important, many of them have fallen into despair, exacerbating underlying problems that they may have in the first place. So trying to figure out how to support our schools and our communities with resources needed to address the mental and emotional health of people who are struggling, particularly young students, that seems like an obvious area that we can work on together.

Obviously, school security is important. The initial reports in Uvalde were that the door was propped open that Salvador Ramos entered. Later, we found out that, no, it wasn't propped open, but the lock didn't work. He just walked right in.

There are a lot of studies and best practices when it comes to what is necessary to secure our schools. If we can secure our airports post-9/11, we can secure our schools to make sure that people who should come in and out of those schools can do so relatively easily but that outsiders cannot and particularly those who are a threat to the safety of those students.

I think all of us want to try to find ways to reduce the likelihood of something like this happening again, and school districts across the country are eager to get our help and guidance to harden their infrastructure to provide for the personnel, resource officers—that is the local police officer on the school campus. Those are things that I think would diminish the likelihood of another Uvalde.

Mental health and school safety seem to me as kind of no-brainers, in a sense, where I don't think there is a lot

of division between that side of the aisle and this side of the aisle.

But we are also looking at ways to keep guns out of the hands of people who already, by law, are prohibited from having them. I am not talking necessarily about expanding the background check system; I want to make sure the background check system works.

What makes this challenging is Salvador Ramos showed up after his 18th birthday as if he were born yesterday. For purposes of the background check system, there was no insight into his many mental health challenges or terroristic threats of fellow students, potentially drug use, and other things that if he were an adult, he could not pass a background check. But because of the fact that juvenile records are typically sealed and are not part of the NICS review, the merchant who sold him the firearms he used didn't know anything about his track record.

But we know how, as I said earlier, that he fits a familiar profile. He shot his own grandmother because she wanted him to go back to school after being out of school for the last 2 years. He engaged in self-mutilation, self-cutting, tortured animals, made threats against his fellow students, threatened sexual assault against his fellow female students, and made threats that he would, in fact, do what he ultimately did online. He was a ticking timebomb.

So if there is some way for us to look back into the sorts of records that would disqualify an adult if they had occurred post-18—because they would have been public records available to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System—if there is a way to look back and identify people like Salvador Ramos, who, by virtue of his mental health and other problems, we would know he should not be able to purchase a firearm legally.

A couple of States—I think it is South Carolina and Virginia—voluntarily upload mental health adjudications for 17-year-olds. We can't compel other States to do that, but we can sure provide—we can facilitate other States doing so and incentivize their populating the NICS background check system with this necessary information for juveniles, who ultimately will end up—they will turn of age and be able to buy a firearm, and we need to know ahead of time, for purposes of the background check system, what those records look like.

So there are a number of things that we could do. One suggestion is, for example, to take a look at the background check process itself for 18- to 21-year-olds in particular since that is the population we are focusing on based on this profile.

Under current law, if you go in and buy a firearm and you have a clean record, you can pass your background check pretty quickly. In 90 percent of cases, that is actually what happens. The average processing time is 2 min-

utes. In most cases, the system returns a binary result: You either pass or you don't pass, you fail. When you fail, that means you can't purchase a firearm.

Now, the Congress, the Senate—in particular, Senator COONS from Delaware and I sponsored a bill that would notify local police when somebody goes in to take a background check and fails because they don't qualify. Many times, the local law enforcement knows more about these people and would be interested to know that they tried to illegally purchase a firearm and were denied.

But in about 10 percent of the gun purchases, the background check is not resolved immediately. The system returns a yellow light, which means additional review is required. For example, if you have a common name like John Smith, the search may pull records for somebody else, for the wrong person with the same name who is prohibited from purchasing a gun. It could also be caused by incomplete criminal history—for example, if somebody is convicted of assault but on further examination, you find out it was domestic violence, which is a prohibited category. You would also learn whether it was a felony or a misdemeanor.

In those cases, the FBI, under current law, already has 3 days in which to complete the background check. The problem is, under current law, there are no finish—the seller still sells the gun, and we have an incomplete record.

Dylann Roof, I believe, was the name of the shooter at the Mother Emanuel Church in Charleston, SC. As it turned out, he had a misdemeanor drug offense that was not uploaded into the background check system.

Now, it is a disqualifying condition if you are addicted to or a frequent user of illegal drugs, but because the background check system did not allow enough time to include that information—maybe, just maybe, he would have been denied the purchase of the firearms that he ultimately used to kill those innocent people that day.

So what we are looking at is the possibility of—in those cases where there is what I will call a yellow flag or an indication that further review is necessary—an extended period of time, for this class of purchasers between 18 and 21, for the background check system to complete their review.

Well, I have said it before, and I will say it again: I don't believe law-abiding, mentally well gun owners are going to commit mass shootings or are a threat to public safety. I know within the Senate, we have a number of people who are sportsmen; who enjoy target shooting, let's say; who believe that they need to exercise their Second Amendment rights in order to protect their family and their homes. They are not a threat. So blanket limitations or prohibitions on those law-abiding citizens who are not a threat to public safety and never will be, to me, strikes as overreach.

We are not talking about a discretionary right; we are talking about a

constitutional right. But I do believe that the Second Amendment and sound public policy are not mutually exclusive here, and that is the needle we are trying to thread here. So adding juvenile records to the NICS system is a commonsense way to ensure we have a complete picture of the buyer's history.

Then, of course, there is the scandal of our mental health delivery system in the United States today. Back in the sixties, when people who had mental health challenges were institutionalized, we finally figured out that that didn't work very well; it was inhumane. The theory was that there would be created some safety net in communities across the country where people could turn; where the police, if they answered a 9-1-1 call and they realized that this isn't a criminal, that this is somebody going through a mental health crisis—where the police could take people where they could actually get help, get treated, get counseling, and get better. That doesn't exist today in many communities—in the major cities perhaps, even in suburban areas, but Uvalde, TX, population 15,000, not so much.

So we are looking at ways to expand the community-based mental health system. Senator STABENOW and Senator BLUNT have a great proposal that would extend the current eight-State pilot program nationwide. Now, is that solely related to what happened at Uvalde or what happened in Buffalo or what happened in Philadelphia? No, but it would address the larger underlying challenge of more and more Americans falling through the cracks.

While we know most people in a mental health crisis are not going to commit acts of violence, we also know that 60 percent of the gun-related deaths are suicides. And as it occurred to me like a light went off in my head, Salvador Ramos, Adam Lanza, and others of this profile of young men, in addition to the multiple homicides they commit, they commit suicide. They know they are not going to make it out alive.

So addressing this mental health crisis that affects our country and particularly where we fail these young men who feel like they have nowhere else to turn, who become increasingly isolated, become increasingly desensitized to the idea of taking someone's life because they are sitting in their room playing video games, killing people virtually all the time, and then, in their bizarre fantasies, decide to extend those fantasies to taking not only their own life but the lives of other innocent people.

So this is challenging, Mr. President, and there is no doubt about it, but we can do this. We can do this. Sometimes politics is called the art of the possible, and I think this is possible. Is it going to be perfect? Are we going to not have to revisit some other scenario where people have fallen through the cracks or where vulnerabilities are exposed? No, we can't be sure that this is one

and done. But I do believe there is a sense of urgency, not only here in the Congress but in the White House and across the country. We have all heard from our constituents, who are in anguish over what has happened in Uvalde and elsewhere. The cry is to do something. Like I said, that is not very specific. And I understand, but it is up to us to try to find what is the right set of policies that would respect the rights of law-abiding citizens under the Constitution but at the same time address what we know is a huge mental health crisis in this country and make sure that the systems that are in place work, like the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

We need to populate that system with the relevant information that would disqualify somebody, if they were an adult, if it occurred while they were a juvenile. There are ways we can do that. We can incentivize that. We can take a look back in some cases. We can allow the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, in those limited cases where they need to do further review, to see that the information is complete.

We can figure this out, and I think, on a bipartisan basis, there is a will to do so. Around here, if there is a will, there is a way, and I believe we do have the will and we will find a way.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, secondly, I would ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak even though it may go a moment or two longer and that the vote be delayed to allow me to complete my remarks.

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

HONORING OUR PACT ACT OF 2021

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I want to speak this morning really to America's veterans and provide an update on our work to get our toxic exposure legislation across the finish line.

The Senate is in the midst of considering the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act. This is historic. It is bipartisan.

I hope that we can keep it becoming, when something is bipartisan, that it is historic because we ought to be able to solve these problems for veterans and really for Americans in a way that brings us together and not pulls us apart, and this is an effort to show that that can be done. This legislation will deliver on a promise we made as a country to take care of our service men and women, both when they deploy and when they come home.

The Heath Robinson Act will provide access to healthcare and benefits for millions of veterans who are sick from

illnesses connected with toxic exposures.

When we send our warfighters into harm's way, it is with the understanding that we will have their back. When they come home bearing physical, mental, or invisible wounds of war, we care for those wounds. Toxic wounds should not be treated differently.

John Buckley, a retired U.S. Army colonel from Andover, KS, told me:

Our Soldiers were put into dangerous situations in Iraq and Afghanistan. And many who suffered from their wounds or made the ultimate sacrifice have been cared for by our nation. Unfortunately, many too have been overlooked and ignored. Especially those who are suffering from injuries after having recurring and prolonged exposure to toxic fumes, burn pits and other environmental hazards.

This legislation is designed to address what the retired colonel told me.

Another Army colonel, this one from Leavenworth, KS, Pat Proctor, who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, shared that many of the men and women he served with are facing health challenges from being exposed to toxins while deployed. He said:

There is no telling—[there is no telling]—how many of us will be impacted as we get older.

I know many of our veterans live with the lingering fear, will the toxic exposures from their service catch up with them and leave them with a debilitating disease? And if that happens, will the VA be there? Will Americans be there for them with the healthcare and benefits they need?

William Turner, the former deputy commander general of support for Kansas's own Fort Riley First Infantry Division, told me:

Our Veterans have served in multiple locations where they have been exposed to a number of toxins that have resulted in them developing serious illnesses, and they often struggle to gain access to health care and benefits that help alleviate some of the pain and suffering they are experiencing.

Sometimes we think these issues are something people in Washington, DC, are talking about, but what we are trying to address is the real circumstances of real Americans who have served our Nation and who are deserving of our attention.

The former deputy commanding general went on to say—to note this:

It is absolutely imperative that we pass this bill to guarantee exposed veterans receive permanent access to health care.

Moving legislation through Congress can be a slow and frustrating process. However, this week, when the Senate began debate on our bill, I was encouraged by the resounding show of confidence. This bill—to move forward on this bill, that vote was 86 Senators in favor.

We are now focused on an amendment process and will continue working as quickly as the Senate will allow to get this bill to the House and back on its way to the President's desk.

Whether Democrat or Republican, every Member of this Chamber represents veterans at home, and I firmly

believe that every Member in this Chamber cares about those veterans. Issues related to veterans often have a way of bringing us together to find consensus, and that is what we have been attempting to do and we will continue to do as we sort out what amendments could be considered.

We were able to deliver veterans choice through the MISSION Act, landmark mental health legislation through the John Scott Hannon Mental Health Improvement Act, and I believe we can do that again on this legislation to deliver care and benefits to all generations of toxic-exposed veterans.

This country is good at recognizing the physical wounds of war, and we are getting better at recognizing the mental wounds of war, but no longer can we ignore the wounds of war from toxic exposure—the wounds, like Agent Orange before it, that may not arrive until years later.

Throughout the remaining procedural votes on the Heath Robinson Act, I urge my colleagues with remaining questions or concerns to reach out so we can all, together, deliver on this promise to those who have borne the battle. I look forward to working with my colleagues to see that this bill crosses the finish line soon.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The bill clerk read the nomination of Robert Steven Huie, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

VOTE ON HUIE NOMINATION

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER).

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 223 Ex.]

YEAS—51

| | | |
|------------|----------|--------|
| Baldwin | Booker | Cardin |
| Bennet | Brown | Carper |
| Blumenthal | Cantwell | Casey |

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|--------------|-----------|------------|
| Collins | Klobuchar | Rosen |
| Coons | Leahy | Schatz |
| Cortez Masto | Lujan | Schumer |
| Duckworth | Manchin | Shaheen |
| Durbin | Markey | Sinema |
| Feinstein | Menendez | Smith |
| Gillibrand | Merkley | Stabenow |
| Hassan | Murkowski | Tester |
| Heinrich | Murphy | Van Hollen |
| Hickenlooper | Murray | Warner |
| Hirono | Ossoff | Warnock |
| Kaine | Padilla | Warren |
| Kelly | Peters | Whitehouse |
| King | Reed | Wyden |

NAYS—46

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Barrasso | Hagerty | Romney |
| Blackburn | Hawley | Rounds |
| Blunt | Hoeven | Rubio |
| Boozman | Hyde-Smith | Sasse |
| Braun | Inhofe | Scott (FL) |
| Capito | Johnson | Scott (SC) |
| Cassidy | Kennedy | Shelby |
| Cornyn | Lankford | Sullivan |
| Cotton | Lee | Thune |
| Crapo | Lummis | Tillis |
| Cruz | Marshall | Toomey |
| Daines | McConnell | Tuberville |
| Ernst | Moran | Wicker |
| Fischer | Paul | Young |
| Graham | Portman | |
| Grassley | Risch | |

NOT VOTING—3

| | | |
|------|--------|---------|
| Burr | Cramer | Sanders |
|------|--------|---------|

The nomination was confirmed.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

The Senator from Maryland.

LGBTQI+ PRIDE MONTH 2022

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, this June marks 53 years since the attack on the Stonewall Inn and 52 years since the first pride parade was held in New York City. The Stonewall riots are widely recognized as the catalyst for the resurgence of the fight for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex—LGBTQI+—rights, and they were the first in a series of landmark events that would define the LGBTQ experience of the late 20th century.

From the UpStairs Lounge arson attack to the devastating AIDS crisis, the community persevered through many harrowing ordeals. During this month, we recognize not only the struggles of the LGBTQ community but the triumphs, both big and small.

Not nearly as well known, the UpStairs Lounge arson attack took place nearly 4 years after the Stonewall riots, on June 24, 1973. Patrons of the New Orleans bar, which primarily served as a safe meeting space for blue-collar gay men, noticed a fire in the front stairwell just before 8 p.m. The fire spread rapidly, forcing patrons to flee to the rooftop and out the barred windows to escape. Unfortunately, this was not enough. Twenty-eight people lost their lives in the blaze, and four more succumbed to their injuries in the following days. This horrendous act would go on to become the deadliest at-

tack on the LGBTQ community until the Pulse nightclub shooting in 2016, which claimed the lives of 49 individuals. Both of these attacks took place during Pride Month, a month that celebrates love, acceptance, and community.

The celebration of Pride Month also allows members of the LGBTQ community to reassert their rights to openly be their true selves and say: "We are here. We are not going away." This message is especially important now, as the Supreme Court prepares to vote on potentially overriding *Roe v. Wade*, the decision that protects an individual's right to privacy and control over their own bodies. Justice Samuel Alito's reasoning in this argument, though not final, threatens an entire line of rights that the Court has inferred from the text of the Constitution over decades, including foundational protections for the LGBTQ people such as marriage equality, established in the 2015 *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision.

I am an original cosponsor of the Equality Act, S. 393, which would safeguard and protect equal rights for the LGBTQ individuals in areas including public accommodations and facilities, education, Federal funding, employment, housing, credit, and the jury system. I am also the lead sponsor of the resolution to eliminate the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, which would strengthen the constitutional foundation for pro-LGBTQ legislation like the Equality Act.

I strongly oppose action by the Supreme Court to take away the rights of Americans by overturning *Roe* or *Obergefell* or other cases like *Griswold v. Connecticut*, which guarantees the rights of families to have access to contraception and family planning.

While I am proud that Maryland has, at the State level, protections in place to preserve the sanctity of same-sex marriage should these rights come under threat at a Federal level, such fundamental rights must be respected at the national level. As many have pointed out, Supreme Court decisions to overturn precedent have historically expanded individual rights, not taken them away.

LGBTQ Pride Month is an integral part of our community here in Maryland. Parades and celebrations are taking place all across the State, from Salisbury to Cumberland. As an ally, I am committed to uplifting and supporting the LGBTQ voices. In particular, we must make a special effort to protect transgender children and their parents and safeguard their access to healthcare and social services during these challenging times.

As extremism grows louder in many States, we must stand united and firm in the face of injustice and continue to proclaim that love has been and always will be love.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The bill clerk read the nomination of Samuel R. Bagenstos, of Michigan, to be General Counsel of the Department of Health and Human Services.

VOTE ON BAGENSTOS NOMINATION

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 224 Ex.]

YEAS—49

| | | |
|--------------|-----------|------------|
| Baldwin | Hirono | Rosen |
| Bennet | Kaine | Sanders |
| Blumenthal | Kelly | Schatz |
| Brown | King | Schumer |
| Cantwell | Klobuchar | Shaheen |
| Cardin | Leahy | Sinema |
| Carper | Lujan | Smith |
| Casey | Manchin | Stabenow |
| Coons | Markey | Tester |
| Cortez Masto | Menendez | Van Hollen |
| Duckworth | Merkley | Warner |
| Durbin | Murphy | Warnock |
| Feinstein | Murray | Warren |
| Gillibrand | Ossoff | Whitehouse |
| Hassan | Padilla | Wyden |
| Heinrich | Peters | |
| Hickenlooper | Reed | |

NAYS—43

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Barrasso | Fischer | Marshall |
| Blackburn | Graham | McConnell |
| Boozman | Grassley | Moran |
| Braun | Hagerty | Murkowski |
| Capito | Hawley | Paul |
| Cassidy | Hoehn | Risch |
| Collins | Hyde-Smith | Romney |
| Cornyn | Inhofe | Rounds |
| Cotton | Johnson | Rubio |
| Crapo | Kennedy | Sasse |
| Cruz | Lankford | Scott (FL) |
| Daines | Lee | |
| Ernst | Lummis | |

| | | |
|------------|----------|--------|
| Scott (SC) | Sullivan | Tillis |
| Shelby | Thune | Young |

NOT VOTING—8

| | | |
|--------|---------|------------|
| Blunt | Cramer | Tuberville |
| Booker | Portman | Wicker |
| Burr | Toomey | |

The nomination was confirmed.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

RECOGNIZING WGN RADIO

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Chicago's very own WGN Radio for reaching its milestone 100th birthday this year.

In a century's time, WGN has reported on so much of our Nation's history. The station is synonymous with Chicago's vibrant sports history and has defined time and again what it means to have a vision and work to see it through.

WGN, which stands for "World's Greatest Newspaper" and pays homage to the Chicago's Tribune's 20th century slogan, comes from humble beginnings.

Starting with a single staff member in 1922, WGN went on to cover some of the past century's defining moments and solidify a legacy of storytelling and determination.

In 1942, it was WGN who interrupted their broadcast of a Bears game to report for the next 257 hours and 35 minutes on the attack on Pearl Harbor.

On 9/11, WGN was there, focusing on Chicago's reaction to the events on that tragic September morning.

As an Illinoian, I am proud that WGN has consistently shown up during some of our country's darkest days. But they have been with us through many of our brightest moments too.

WGN went from broadcasting its very first sports game—a match between the Cubs and White Sox—go Cubs—in 1924, to Wayne Larrivee, Dick Butkus, and Jim Hart broadcasting the Chicago Bears' legendary Super Bowl XX win to 2010's triumphant cries as the station's broadcasters described Patrick Kane scoring the winning goal in overtime, earning the Chicago Blackhawks the Stanley Cup for the first time in 50 years.

WGN has not just been telling our stories for the last 100 years, but they have become a vital member of our community.

Judy Markey and Kathy O'Malley's beloved afternoon talk show, and making Mary Sandberg Boyle the station's first woman general manager in 2019, or bringing the voices like Orion Samuelson and Bob Collins to our days—WGN is embedded in the hearts of so many Chicagoans.

WGN's legacy isn't just about radio. It is about community. It is about

being proud of where you have come from and where you are going.

So here is to 100 more years of WGN, and many more to come.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, it is Thursday, and I normally come down on the Senate floor to give the "Alaskan of the Week" speech. And, unfortunately, I am not going to do that today.

Actually, last week, I named two Alaskans of the week. We kind of had a two-for-one last week. Just as a little wrap-up for that, it was quite a remarkable thing that took place just last week in Alaska on Memorial Day.

My two Alaskans of the week, a 92-year-old artist working with a detective, both Alaska Natives, both from the community of Unalaska out on the Aleutian Islands chain, worked together. Actually, Gertrude Svarny worked for decades to right a wrong and get a military burial on Memorial Day for a young man and also an Alaska Native from Unalaska who died fighting in World War II and was never recognized, no gravestone, no tombstone, nothing—for decades. And we had an amazing ceremony thanks to these two amazing Alaskans—Gertrude Svarny, as I mentioned, and Mike Livingston. And the memory of this young Alaska Native soldier, Private George Fox, was now finally recognized.

That was in a Memorial Day ceremony last week. I was trying to get there. Unfortunately, they sometimes get a lot of bad weather out there. I flew halfway out to the Aleutian Islands, and we had horrible weather. We couldn't land.

But the ceremony happened. So there were two Alaskans of the week 2 weeks ago that I just wanted to highlight again. It was an incredibly moving ceremony.

So I figured that was two for one. So, unfortunately, I am not going to do an "Alaskan of the Week" today. I know we like to end the week on a high note.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. President, I am going to talk about a mystery that has really been, certainly, flummoxing me and, I think, so many people in our Federal Government on a matter that especially impacts millions and millions of Americans suffering from high energy prices. It is a mystery for the American people.

And, you know, our Federal Government can sometimes be so opaque that you often don't know who is up to what in this Big Government of ours, particularly when people are trying to do

things that are so obviously harmful to the American people. So I am going to talk a little bit about this mystery because I think we finally solved it. There is a culprit who is usually the culprit in a lot of bad things happening in our Federal Government, and I am going to talk about that.

So here is a little bit of background on the mystery. We passed a bipartisan infrastructure bill in November. Now, I voted for it. Some of my colleagues didn't. I voted for it primarily because I come from a resource-rich, infrastructure-poor State.

Alaska has resources—oil, gas, minerals, renewables—that can help our State and can help the country and, really, help the world, but we have very little infrastructure.

Think about this. My State is 120 times bigger than Connecticut, and we have less road miles than Connecticut. And I know we have less road miles than Maryland.

So, we need infrastructure. So Senator MURKOWSKI, Congressman YOUNG, and I participated, certainly in our own ways, on getting this infrastructure bill written and then over the goal line in terms of votes.

Overall, I thought it was a positive bill. It wasn't perfect, but especially with the focus on roads, bridges, ports, harbors, and broadband—and there is actually a provision in there for Federal loan guarantees on a huge Alaska gas project—an LNG project. So in my view, this bill was a win-win-win for jobs, infrastructure, and energy infrastructure to help bring down energy prices, and, of course, on the environment.

I like to show this chart a lot. It has gotten a lot of attention. Some of our national media folks have seen it, and they say: Gee, that can't be true. Let's PolitiFact or fact-check Senator SULLIVAN's emissions chart. So they have, and they have come back and said: Hey, gosh, he is actually right.

It shows annual emissions from the major economies in the world since 2005 to present. Who is the leader in reducing emissions? Who is the leader? We are. America is—actually, by far; not even close—with almost a 15-percent emission reduction since 2005.

Who is the main culprit of spewing emissions out into the global atmosphere? Well, you guessed it—our good friends, the Chinese communists—China, India, Iran, and Russia.

So we are the leader on this. I had the opportunity during a confirmation hearing recently for one of the Biden administration's EPA nominees in charge of air quality. I showed him this chart. He didn't seem to know a lot about the chart, but he seemed like a good guy. I asked: Hey, why do you think this happened? He kind of trotted out initially the EPA regs. Wrong answer. This is because of the revolution in the production of American gas. That is a fact, OK? You can check it all you want.

So you would think that infrastructure, part of the infrastructure bill

that can help us actually produce more energy with more energy infrastructure, that everybody would be for it—helps the environment, global emissions, certainly helps workers, and helps build out infrastructure, which we sorely need.

As I mentioned, Mr. President, big supporters of the infrastructure bill were all the trade unions in Alaska and America because they know they are going to get the jobs from the build-out of this infrastructure bill.

Now, one of the things the bill had that I thought was actually really important—it was something I worked on in the Environment and Public Works Committee—were provisions to streamline our Federal permitting system to be able to get infrastructure projects deployed and built. That was a big element of this bill—not as much as I wanted, but certainly a good start.

This has been an issue I have been working on since my time here in the Senate. It is a bipartisan issue, as the Presiding Officer knows. When you talk to mayors and Governors in America anywhere—it doesn't matter what party they are—they want the ability to have the Federal Government permit infrastructure projects so we can move them out. That is not controversial.

And here is the thing. As a country, we used to be really good at building stuff—building stuff on time, building stuff that is impressive. Just to give you a few examples—I think a lot of people know this—but our country used to be the envy of the world building great projects responsibly, efficiently, and on time. The Pentagon was built in 16 months. The Empire State Building was built in 1 year 45 days. With the 1,500-mile Alaska-Canadian Highway—what we call the ALCAN Highway, connecting the lower 48 all the way through Canada up into Alaska, 1,500 miles—it took 8 months to do that. So we know how to do this as a country.

Let's fast-forward to today. A new U.S. highway construction project, to build a highway, usually takes 9 to 19 years. That is according to the GAO. Let me just give you a couple of examples of those.

The Gross Reservoir in Colorado, which is going to offer clean water to the people of Colorado, has taken two decades of planning and permitting. To expand the Gross Reservoir northwest of Denver has taken two decades—20 years—to get this important project in Colorado permitted.

The California bullet train project was approved in the late 1990s. It is still not built. Its costs, because of permitting delays, have gone from \$33 billion to \$105 billion.

The Mountain Valley Pipeline in Virginia and West Virginia began in 2015 to bring natural gas. There are only 20 miles left to complete. It might not ever be completed because of permitting delays. The Federal courts are delaying, delaying, and delaying energy projects.

The Kensington mine in Alaska, which now employs over 400 people—it is a gold mine with an average wage, by the way, of over \$100,000, the average wage—took 20 years to permit if you include the litigation. The list goes on and on and on.

When NEPA was originally passed, the EIS, the environmental impact statement, was to take less than a year. It usually took less than a year and was usually a couple hundred pages. Now the average EIS takes 4 to 6 years to complete on any project in America, and it usually costs several millions of dollars. We are killing ourselves as a country in our ability to build or to not build infrastructure projects.

What did we do in the infrastructure bill? It was bipartisan. We worked together and put together some pretty good permitting reform provisions. They are not nearly as good as I would have wanted them, but they were pretty good, pretty good, to get the infrastructure that is in this bill—roads; bridges; ports; yes, energy projects of pipelines for oil and gas, which we need—built quickly or at least in a reasonable amount of time, not in 20 years.

So here is the mystery. That all happened. The President said he liked it. The unions really liked it. The building trades—the men and women who build stuff in this country—liked it. I have worked with Terry O'Sullivan, the great leader of the Laborers, on permitting reform—this very issue. We have got some good things in there. So what is the mystery?

Here is the mystery: After all of this work and the President touting the infrastructure bill and our getting ready to build and having good impacts in terms of natural gas, not just on environment and emissions but in continuing to make us the global leader, the White House set out new rules in April, under NEPA, for infrastructure projects.

What did they do? They made the NEPA rules much harder to actually build infrastructure, not just for oil and gas, but it targeted oil and gas. This is for all infrastructure—roads, bridges, ports, renewable projects, LNG projects, natural gas projects.

The White House put out new NEPA rules rescinding the Trump administration's rules, which were quite good and similar to some of the reforms we got in the infrastructure bill, and everybody knows that these White House rules are going to delay infrastructure projects. Why in the heck would we do that as a country? We just passed a big infrastructure bill with permitting reform in it, and somebody over at the White House said: No, let's make it harder.

Here is an editorial from the Wall Street Journal that talks about the infrastructure NEPA regs. It is called: "How to Kill American Infrastructure on the Sly. The White House revises

NEPA rules that will scuttle [the ability to build] new roads, bridges and oil and gas pipelines.”

(Ms. CORTEZ MASTO assumed the Chair.)

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD this editorial.

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

[From The Wall Street Journal, April 20, 2022]

HOW TO KILL AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE ON THE SLY

(By The Wall Street Journal Editorial Board)

Americans are going to need a split-screen for the Biden Administration's policy contradictions. Even as the President on Tuesday promoted the bipartisan infrastructure bill he signed last November, the White House moved to make it harder to build roads, bridges and, of course, oil and natural-gas pipelines.

The White House Council on Environmental Quality is revising rules under the National Environmental Policy Act for permitting major construction projects. CEQ Chair Brenda Mallory says the changes will “provide regulatory certainty” and “reduce conflict.” Instead, they will cause more litigation and delays that raise construction costs, if they don't kill projects outright.

NEPA requires federal agencies to review the environmental impact of major projects that are funded by the feds or require a federal permit. Reviews can take years and run thousands of pages, covering the smallest potential impact on species, air or water quality. Project developers can be forced to mitigate these effects by, say, relocating species.

While the 1970 law was intended to prevent environmental disasters, it has become a weapon to block development. The Trump Administration sought to fast-track projects by limiting NEPA reviews to environmental effects that are directly foreseeable—e.g., how a pipeline's construction would affect a stream it crosses.

Some liberal judges, however, have interpreted NEPA broadly to require the study of effects that indirectly result from a project such as CO2 emissions. Now the Biden Administration is mandating this. CEQ's new rule will require agencies to calculate the “indirect” and “cumulative impacts” that “can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.” This means death by a thousand regulatory cuts for many projects.

The Transportation Department will likely have to examine how a highway expansion could increase greenhouse-gas emissions in concert with new warehouses. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission might have to calculate how a new pipeline would affect emissions from upstream production and downstream consumption.

Wait—didn't FERC recently walk back its policy to do exactly this? The White House is thumbing its nose at West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin, who blasted FERC's now-suspended policy for shutting “down the infrastructure we desperately need as a country.”

The rule's obvious intent is to make it harder to build pipelines, roads and other infrastructure that would enable more U.S. oil and gas production, even as the Administration makes phony gestures to reduce energy prices. Last Friday the Administration announced it would comply with a court order to hold oil and gas lease sales on public land. Those leases won't matter if energy companies can't get federal permits for rights-of-way.

While fossil fuels may be the rule's political target, don't be surprised if green energy is snagged in this trip-wire. Environmental groups have used NEPA to block new mineral mines and transmission lines that connect distant renewable energy sources to population centers. In this Administration, the left hand doesn't seem to know what the far left hand is doing.

Mr. SULLIVAN. So the new rules come out. They are clearly meant to kill infrastructure, especially oil and gas but kind of everything. The President is touting this infrastructure bill as one of his big achievements. It was bipartisan. A number of us, myself included, voted for it, but there is somebody out there who is trying to make sure the infrastructure doesn't get built. Hmm. That is the mystery. That is the mystery. Who would do that? Well, heck. I am trying to find the answer because I really care about this issue—permitting reform—in order to get infrastructure projects built. My State has been ground zero about projects being delayed. So who is it?

So I am starting to ask around the White House. Secretary Granholm was testifying in front of the Armed Services Committee 2 weeks ago.

I raised this issue with her: Madam Secretary, who the heck is doing it? Are you?

Senator, I didn't know anything about this CQ rule.

It is a little surprising. I mean, there was a lot about energy, but that is what she said in the hearing. Go take a look at it. I believe her. I don't think she was pushing to delay infrastructure.

Would it be the Secretary of Labor, Marty Walsh? He is a former laborer, a LIUNA guy, right? I supported Marty Walsh strongly because I talked to him before his confirmation about—Hey, look. There is a group in the White House who hates energy even though it has great jobs, and there are some in the White House who think that they want to help the building trades build stuff. If you are with that group, Marty Walsh, I will support you as Secretary of Labor. He said he was. So I don't think it is he.

As a matter of fact, when these regs came out, the Laborers' International put out a statement, saying:

Once again, communities in need of vital infrastructure and the hard-working men and women who build America will be waiting as project details are subjected to onerous reviews [by these new rules].

This is the Laborers' International. The men and women who build stuff are not happy about this new NEPA rule.

Americans will continue to bear the expense of NEPA-related delays, which cost taxpayers millions of dollars annually. Lengthy review processes and unpredictable legal challenges [will result from these new NEPA regs. They will have] a chilling impact on private investment in infrastructure.

Of course, when we need energy, these new NEPA rules will make it harder for Americans to get energy, and the price of energy is going to continue to go like this: on the backs of working families.

So was it the Secretary of Labor pushing this? I doubt it. I doubt it.

Who was it?

Well, as I have said on the floor of the U.S. Senate many times before, if there is something bad happening to the national interests of our country either domestically or internationally, it is probably not farfetched to assume John Kerry is near it. There is nobody in the Biden administration who so regularly tries to undermine America's national interests than John Kerry's kowtowing to the Chinese Communist Party or kissing up to Iranian terrorists. When Putin began his barbaric invasion of Ukraine, John Kerry publicly voiced his first concerns not about people dying and not about a democracy being overrun by a dictator; it was how Vladimir Putin might take his eye off his climate change goals.

This is embarrassing as Americans. He is a senior official. Now, he has no power in terms of being confirmed by the Senate. Yes, he is a former Secretary of State and a former Senator, but on these issues, he is so out of touch with the average American.

So who was pushing these new NEPA rules to delay energy projects for America? It is the big mystery. Heck, I don't even think it was the President. He seems proud of this infrastructure bill. He has told all of the unions he wants them to get to work and build, but now we have a new rule that is going to delay the building of infrastructure.

The mystery is solved. The mystery is solved.

This is a headline from a TIME magazine news story that just came out yesterday of John Kerry saying:

“We Have to Push Back Hard” on Efforts to Build New [Energy] Infrastructure in Response to Rising Gas Prices.

We have to push back hard. You can't make this stuff up. This is the guy. This is the guy. So we have a new bunch of Federal rules right now, driven by this guy—and probably Gina McCarthy—who want to drive up energy prices and make it harder for infrastructure to be built, which is exactly what this will do. Nobody is even arguing against that. It will drive up energy prices on the backs of working-class Americans, and now he is out publicly saying that we have got to do it—stop infrastructure.

We have this new revisionism suggesting we have to be producing more energy. Well, yes, we do. It is amazing. You never know whose side this guy is on, but he is not on America's side, I will tell you that.

So this is a new regulation, a NEPA reg. We have the authority here in Congress to use what is called a Congressional Review Act, a CRA. We have the power, when a new reg comes out, to say: No, we don't like that in the Senate. We are going to have a vote, a Congressional Review Act vote, on whether to rescind an amendment that is clearly driven by this guy—a regulation by

this guy—that will delay energy projects; that will delay renewable projects; that will make sure Americans continue to pay record high energy prices.

So we are going to have a vote on that. I plan on bringing that resolution to the floor soon. It is a privileged resolution, so we will get a vote whether Majority Leader SCHUMER wants to vote on it or not.

I am assuming the President will like my CRA because he can't want delays to his infrastructure bill. He can't want delays to getting energy relief for American families. This guy does, right? So we are going to have a little test, and we will have another mystery solved here on the Senate floor.

Two weeks ago, in the Commerce Committee, I had a little debate with a couple of my colleagues, friends of mine, but I made a statement, which I think is very true. It is certainly true in my State, and it is this: At the national level, my Democratic colleagues, when they have a choice between supporting guys like this and his radical environmental allies and the working men and women of America who want to build stuff, they always choose him and his allies.

My colleagues—some of them—really got upset: How can you say that, DAN? That is not true.

Well, it is true in Alaska. I see it every day.

So my CRA is going to just ask a simple question: Whom are you for? Whom do you stand with? Do you stand with the American working families, the laborers, the people who build the infrastructure that we need, the families who are suffering from high energy costs or this guy and his radical environmental ally and special interests who have a lot of power in this White House and who are clearly behind this reg that I am trying to rescind to make it harder to build infrastructure, especially American energy infrastructure?

For my colleagues who say no, we are with the working men and women of America—we will see. We will see. I hope you vote with me to rescind this reg that is only harming our country, only harming working families, only harming working Americans, and promotes the radical, out-of-touch agenda of John Kerry, Gina McCarthy, and the far-left, woke environmental interests that they answer to. It is going to be an interesting vote, and the American people are going to be watching.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

H.R. 3967

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, this week, the Senate has worked towards passing the largest expansion of healthcare benefits for our veterans in a very long time. Millions of veterans today face the flabbergasting indignity. They served our country valiantly, were exposed to toxic chemicals in the line of duty but cannot get the healthcare benefits they need because of outdated rules at the VA.

This needs to change, and the PACT Act would provide the fix. Many on both sides want to get this bill done as soon as we can. We cannot have dilatory or destructive amendments to the PACT Act because it is too important for our veterans' well-being.

To that end, Democrats have spent the day working with Republicans on a list of amendments, and these negotiations are ongoing. But while we work on an agreement and to keep the process moving, I will be filing cloture so we can take the next step towards passing the PACT Act next week. We hope to get an agreement—and we are making good progress there—so we hope to get an agreement before that, but the legislative process must move forward.

So for the sake of our veterans who have made the ultimate sacrifice serving our Nation and defending our freedom, there is no reason we can't pass the PACT Act ASAP. Our discussions continue with our Republican colleagues in an effort to get that done, and I am hopeful that we will succeed.

AMENDMENT NO. 5076

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have an amendment to the underlying bill at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] proposes an amendment numbered 5076 to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment numbered 5051.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask to dispense with further reading of the amendment.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To add an effective date)

At the end add the following:

SEC. ____ EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 3 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The 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 Tester substitute amendment No. 5051 to Calendar No. 388, H.R. 3967, a bill to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Jon Tester, Tammy Duckworth, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Kyrsten Sinema, Mark Kelly, Christopher Murphy, Sherrod Brown, Tina Smith, Jacky Rosen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jack Reed, Tammy Baldwin, Jeanne Shaheen, Mazie Hirono, Ben Ray Lujan.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

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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 Calendar No. 388, H.R. 3967, a bill to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Jon Tester, Tammy Duckworth, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Kyrsten Sinema, Mark Kelly, Christopher Murphy, Sherrod Brown, Tina Smith, Jacky Rosen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jack Reed, Tammy Baldwin, Jeanne Shaheen, Mazie K. Hirono, Ben Ray Lujan.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, Thursday, June 9, be waived.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 3967

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the filing deadline for first-degree amendments to substitute amendment No. 5051 and the underlying bill, H.R. 3967, be at 4 p.m., Monday, June 13.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 849, 850, 851, 853, 854; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate resume legislative session.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Dana Katherine Bilyeu, of Nevada, to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board for a term expiring October 11, 2023 (Reappointment); Leona M. Bridges, of California, to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board for a term expiring October 11, 2023; Stacie Olivares, of California, to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board for a term expiring September 25, 2024; Michael F. Gerber, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board for a term expiring September 25, 2022; and Michael F. Gerber, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the

Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board for a term expiring September 25, 2026 (Reappointment) en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 22-0G. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 18-19 of June 26, 2018.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-0G

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(C), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of Spain.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 18-19; Date: June 26, 2018; Implementing Agency: Navy.

(iii) Description: On June 26, 2018, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 18-19, of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of five (5) AEGIS Weapons Systems (AWS) MK7, six (6) shipsets Digital Signal Processing, five (5) shipsets AWS Computing Infrastructure MARK 1 MOD 0, five (5) shipsets Operational Readiness Test Systems (ORTS), five (5) shipsets MK 99 MOD 14 Fire Control System, five (5) shipsets MK 41 Baseline VII Vertical Launching Systems (VLS), two (2) All-Up-Round MK 54 Mod 0

lightweight torpedoes, twenty (20) SM-2 Block IIIB missiles and MK 13 canisters with AN/DKT-71 warhead compatible telemeter. Also included was one (1) S4 AWS computer program, five (5) shipsets Ultra High Frequency (UHF) Satellite Communications (SATCOM), five (5) shipsets AN/SRQ-4 radio terminal sets, five (5) shipsets ordnance handling equipment, five (5) shipsets Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Modules (SAASM), five (5) shipsets aviation handling and support equipment, five (5) shipsets AN/SLQ-24E Torpedo countermeasures systems, five (5) shipsets LM04 Thru-Hull XBT Launcher and test canisters, one (1) shipset MK 36 MOD 6 Decoy Launching System, five (5) shipsets Link Level COMSEC (LLC) 7M for LINK 22, five (5) shipsets Maintenance Assist Module (MAM) cabinets, five (5) shipsets technical documentation, five (5) shipsets installation support material, special purpose test equipment, system engineering, technical services, on-site vendor assistance, spare parts, systems training, foreign liaison office and staging services necessary to support ship construction and delivery, spare and repair parts, tools and test equipment, support equipment, repair and return support, personnel training and training equipment, publications and technical documentation, U.S. Government and contractor engineering and logistics support services, and other related elements of logistic and program support. The estimated total cost was \$860.4 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$324.4 million of this total.

On June 15, 2020, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 20-0G of an additional thirty (30) All-Up-Round MK 54 Lightweight Torpedoes (MDE). The following non-MDE items were also included: MK 54 LWT expendables; MK 54 turnaround kits; MK 54 containers; one (1) MK-695 Torpedo Systems Test Set (TSTS); Support equipment including fire control modification platforms and spare parts; torpedo spare parts; training; publications; software; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services and other related elements of logistics and program support. The addition of these items resulted in a net increase in MDE cost of \$45 million, resulting in a revised MDE cost of \$369.4 million. The total estimated case value increased to \$940.4 million.

This transmittal reports the replacement of the previously notified MDE two (2) All Up Round MK 54 Mod 0 Lightweight Torpedoes (LWT) with two (2) Exercise MK 54 Mod 0 LWTs. Also included is additional Engineering Technical Assistance for redesign of Radar Signal Processing Group configuration and updates to IAFCL design; shipsets of SAASM units and associated spares; COMSEC equipment for use between test sites; and removal of one (1) shipset MK 36 Mod 6 Decoy Launching System. The MDE total value will remain \$369.4 million; however, the non-MDE estimated value will increase from \$571 million to \$810.6 million. The total estimated case value will increase to \$1.18 billion.

(iv) Significance: The proposed articles and services will support Spain's capability to commission their new F-110 frigates with the AEGIS Weapon System (AWS).

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by improving the security of a NATO ally which is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe. It is vital to the U.S. national interest to assist Spain in developing and maintaining a strong and ready self-defense capability.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The Sensitivity of Technology Statement contained in

the original notification applies to items reported here.

The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: June 8, 2022.

CELEBRATING THE HERITAGE OF ROMANI AMERICANS

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise today to speak about S. Res. 124 that Senator WICKER and I introduced last year celebrating the heritage of Romani Americans. I applaud the passage of this resolution which was voted on favorably in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee today and will now be moved to the Senate floor for consideration.

This resolution is significant as it expresses remembrance for the genocide of the Roma by the Nazis, commends the work of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in promoting this remembrance and awareness, and further expresses support for the annual International Roma Day to honor the history, culture, and heritage of the Romani people in the United States. Roma have been part of every single wave of European migration to the United States from the Colonial period to today, and there are now an estimated 1 million Americans who have some Romani ancestry. S. Res. 124 is the first resolution considered in Congress to acknowledge Romani Americans and to celebrate their heritage and history. Its passage will be a milestone for this community.

When Senator WICKER and I introduced S. Res. 124, we observed that Romani people enrich the fabric of our Nation and strengthen the transatlantic bond. The resolution mentions two dates of particular importance on both sides of the Atlantic. First, April 8 was the date of the first World Romani Congress, held near London. That date is therefore celebrated as the moment when transatlantic efforts to improve the situation of the Roma entered a new, more visible and more productive stage.

But more than that, it has become time for policymakers to focus on continued efforts to improve the situation of Roma. Ugly discrimination against the Roma persists and needs to be addressed. The European Parliament, for example, dedicates a week in April to review and advance Romani inclusion initiatives. Governments across Europe and the OSCE also use this as a time to focus on policy and the future. This resolution welcomes and encourages the Department of State's participation in such events and activities.

The second date specifically mentioned in the resolution is the night of August 2-3, 1944, when the Romani camp at Auschwitz was liquidated and more than 4,200 Romani men, women, and children were killed in a single night.

This day has been formally recognized as a day of commemoration by

the European Union, Poland, and other countries. Based on my work over many years in the Helsinki Commission, I know that the current situation of Roma in Europe today simply cannot be understood without learning about the genocide of Roma during World War II and the enduring legacy of that tragedy.

I believe more should be done to teach about Romani experiences during the Holocaust, and we welcome the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's support for scholarship in this area. This resolution commends the Museum for its work in promoting remembrance of the Holocaust and educating successor generations about the genocide of Roma.

The museum welcomed the introduction of this resolution last year, observing, "House and Senate passage will help raise awareness about the history of the Romani people, the richness of Romani culture, and to unequivocally reject the dehumanization of Roma and any violence directed against their communities." I look forward to the opportunity for this resolution to be adopted by the Senate. I ask unanimous consent that the text of S. Res. 124 be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. RES. 124

Whereas the Romani people trace their ancestry to the Indian subcontinent;

Whereas Roma have been a part of European immigration to the United States since the colonial period and particularly following the abolition of the enslavement of Roma in the historic Romanian principalities;

Whereas Roma live across the world and throughout the United States;

Whereas the Romani people have made distinct and important contributions in many fields, including agriculture, art, crafts, literature, medicine, military service, music, sports, and science;

Whereas, on April 8, 1971, the First World Romani Congress met in London, bringing Roma together from across Europe and the United States with the goal of promoting transnational cooperation among Roma in combating social marginalization and building a positive future for Roma everywhere;

Whereas April 8 is therefore celebrated globally as International Roma Day;

Whereas Roma were victims of genocide carried out by Nazi Germany and its Axis partners, and an estimated 200,000 to 500,000 Romani people were killed by Nazis and their allies across Europe during World War II;

Whereas, on the night of August 2-3, 1944, the so-called "Gypsy Family Camp" where Romani people were interned at Auschwitz-Birkenau was liquidated, and in a single night, between 4,200 and 4,300 Romani men, women, and children were killed in gas chambers;

Whereas many countries are taking positive steps to remember and teach about the genocide of Roma by Nazi Germany and its Axis partners; and

Whereas the United States Congress held its first hearing to examine the situation of Roma in 1994: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) remembers the genocide of Roma by Nazi Germany and its Axis partners and commemorates the destruction of the

"Gypsy Family Camp" where Romani people were interned at Auschwitz;

(2) commends the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum for its role in promoting remembrance of the Holocaust and educating about the genocide of Roma;

(3) supports International Roma Day as an opportunity to honor the culture, history, and heritage of the Romani people in the United States as part of the larger Romani global diaspora; and

(4) welcomes the Department of State's participation in ceremonies and events celebrating International Roma Day and similar engagement by the United States Government.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK JOHNSON, JR.

• Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Madam President, I am pleased to commend Mr. Patrick Johnson, Jr., of Tunica, MS, for his service and contributions to the State of Mississippi while serving as the 86th president of Delta Council.

Organized in 1935, Delta Council plays an important role in uniting agricultural, business, and economic development leadership to solve problems and promote greater opportunities in the Mississippi Delta region, which encompasses 19 counties in northwest Mississippi.

Mr. Johnson has worked tirelessly this year to advance the priorities of Delta Council, including farm policy, economic development, flood control, and education. As a partner in Cypress Brake Planting Company, Tunica Air, Inc., and Buck Island Seed Company, he knows all too well the challenges producers currently face with increased costs and volatility in the agricultural industry. As a member of the Mississippi Commission on Environmental Quality, he is dedicated to helping find solutions to the Delta's groundwater and alluvial aquifer issues so that future generations can continue to produce crops and enjoy the recreation that is such a large part of the rich history of the Mississippi Delta. Mr. Johnson also understands the importance of economic development to the viability of the Delta and that, through efforts like Delta Strong, the region will continue to successfully attract new opportunities.

Mr. Johnson assumed the role of Delta Council president during a time characterized by difficulties, such as the ongoing and disruptive pandemic, rising inflation, and many other challenges. Patrick Johnson has been a steady and calm leader over the past year and has contributed his vast knowledge and service to many critical issues during his tenure as president.

Outside of his time spent working on his farm and serving Delta Council, Mr. Johnson contributes his time as a leader to many valuable organizations. He serves as a Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality commissioner, National Cotton Council Environmental Task Force member, American

Cotton Producers Farm Bill Task Force chairman, and Tunica County Chamber of Commerce member. In addition to serving as a member of Delta F.A.R.M., Mr. Johnson has also served on the Tunica County Farm Service Agency Committee and is a past director of the Tunica County Farm Bureau. Mr. Johnson and his wife, Emily, are members of Tunica Presbyterian Church where he sings in the choir.

It is my pleasure to join the citizens throughout the Mississippi Delta and the great State of Mississippi in offering congratulations to Mr. Patrick Johnson, Jr., and sharing our appreciation with his wife Emily Purifoy Johnson. His input over his year of service has undoubtedly contributed to the overall continued success and influence of this highly respected 87-year-old organization, Delta Council. •

RECOGNIZING THE INDEPENDENCE ASSOCIATION

• Mr. KING. Madam President, today I wish to recognize the outstanding contributions of an organization based in my hometown of Brunswick, ME. This year marks the 55th anniversary of Independence Association, and I could not be more grateful to everyone who has contributed to the organization's work to enrich our community by serving children and adults with developmental disabilities. For over half a century, Independence Association has helped individuals rise to their full potential, growing up and out as fully included, fully valued members of their communities. Their work, their creativity, and their contributions make all of us better.

The Independence Association we know today has changed over the decades. Its inception dates back to 1967—a time in which institutionalization was still prevalent—when five families founded the Youth Development Center to chart a different course for their children. The Youth Development Center immediately demonstrated that the right people, resources, and support made an inclusive and independent life a reality for their children, and they soon welcomed others with additional needs as well. That organization grew and, in 1977, became Independence Association; since then, its staff, volunteers, and parents have gone on to empower hundreds of people with disabilities to enjoy enriching lives in the Maine communities we all love.

Over the last 55 years, Independence Association has continued to be creative, collaborative, and comprehensive in supporting their clients' ever-evolving needs. Even during a pandemic, faced with severe staffing shortages, a challenging hiring environment, and stagnant reimbursement rates, Independence Association remains committed to the more than 400 clients they support and the hundreds of people they employ.

The staff, volunteers, and community partners of Independence Association

have expanded over the years, and they now offer a full range of services in nine Maine counties and more than 60 Maine cities and towns. Their services range from Spindleworks—a nationally recognized artist's collaboration, which created the State of Maine ornament for the White House Christmas tree in 2017—to single-level "Aging in Place" lifetime housing. Independence Association also provides transportation for clients who have jobs or volunteer commitments, skills training for community life, case management services, and boundless opportunities for growth and support.

As a champion of all people, Independence Association has grown and adapted with the ever-changing needs of their clients. Their vision of empowering people with disabilities has never waned, and our State is stronger because of their work. I join with the people of Maine in thanking Independence Association for its passionate caring, commitment, and unwavering service to our communities and look forward to their continued impact on our State.●

RECOGNIZING THE FOXHOLE

● Mr. PAUL. Madam President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Kentucky small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize The Foxhole of Smiths Grove, KY, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Take a look at any small town American Main Street, and you will likely see a common trend: small businesses are a bastion of creativity. All around the country, entrepreneurs break out into new ventures based on an idea that is uniquely theirs, and they work hard to support the enterprise that is their dream. Such is the story of Kellie B. Long and her store, The Foxhole. Founded in 2017, Kellie set out to open a store that offered a wide variety of items, from clothes and jewelry, to furnishings and tableware. In the years since her opening, the store has grown in its product variety, staff capacity, and customer reach. Though The Foxhole is well-loved by the residents of Smiths Grove, customers travel from all across Kentucky to peruse items that could only be found at this unique shop.

When customers walk in the door, they are surrounded by Kellie's unique vision for what defines beauty and creativity. This entrepreneur does not rely on products that are freshly made or unused; she curates a wide array of distinctive items that cannot be found in the typical clothes or home goods store. Moreover, Kellie appreciates the quality of a product that has been loved by a previous owner, and she takes pride in her keen eye for identifying items that deserve to be loved again. Her store offers products that

are notably vintage, along with lightly used items, as well as the occasional new and custom-made products. Despite the fact that her store is filled with products that are hard to find and potentially irreplaceable, Kellie is not shy or finicky about welcoming all clientele, even making the store dog friendly for those who cannot part with their pups. Furthermore, Kellie participates in "Second-Saturdays," which is a communal outdoor shopping experience for the residents of Smiths Grove. Second-Saturdays bring out food trucks, vendors, and entertainment for locals to shop, eat, and enjoy with their neighbors and friends.

Her participation in Second-Saturdays is not the only way Kellie stays involved in the community. Outside of her regular commercial activities, The Foxhole offers the occasional Bible study for residents of Smiths Grove to gather and share in their religion and faith. And though her Bible study is not a routine part of The Foxhole's activities, Kellie makes sure to incorporate her giving spirit into the running of her business. Every year as Americans observe Memorial Day, Kellie opens up her business to a greater cause, by donating 10 percent of her Memorial Day weekend sales to the Wounded Warriors project. Kellie understands that we all have a veteran in our life, and she does her part in giving back to the community that gave their all.

In addition to their annual sales donations to charity, Kellie is sensitive to whatever needs may arise from her Kentucky neighbors. After devastating tornados struck western Kentucky in late 2021, Kelly donated 21 percent of all of The Foxholes' sales recorded in the last 2 weeks of December to the Bowling Green Tornado relief fund. Kellie ensures that The Foxhole is a place where customers can find beautiful and unique items, while promoting community involvement and goodwill to all who dawn her storefront.

I want to congratulate this upstanding entrepreneur for her dedication to her community and for her drive to bring creativity and beauty to her corner of Kentucky. Congratulations to Kellie Long and the entire team at The Foxhole. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Kentucky.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 12:01 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 3823. An act to amend title 11, United States Code, to modify the eligibility requirements for a debtor under chapter 13, and for other purposes.

H.R. 735. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 502 East Cotati Avenue in Cotati, California,

as the "Arturo L. Ibleto Post Office Building".

H.R. 767. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 40 Fulton Street in Middletown, New York, as the "Benjamin A. Gilman Post Office Building".

H.R. 1170. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 League in Irvine, California, as the "Tuskegee Airman Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. Friend Memorial Post Office Building".

H.R. 1444. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 132 North Loudoun Street, Suite 1 in Winchester, Virginia, as the "Patsy Cline Post Office".

H.R. 2324. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2800 South Adams Street in Tallahassee, Florida, as the "D. Edwina Stephens Post Office".

H.R. 4591. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress periodic reports on the costs, performance metrics, and outcomes of the Department of Veterans Affairs Electronic Health Record Modernization program.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

At 12:48 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2377. An act to authorize the issuance of extreme risk protection orders.

H.R. 5879. An act to amend the Small Business Act to clarify the application of the price evaluation preference for qualified HUBZone small business concerns to certain contracts, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7334. An act to extend the statute of limitations for fraud by borrowers under certain COVID-19 economic injury disaster loan programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7352. An act to amend the Small Business Act to extend the statute of limitation for fraud by borrowers under the Paycheck Protection Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7622. An act to amend the Small Business Act to include requirements relating to apprenticeship program assistance for small business development centers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7664. An act to amend the Small Business Act to include requirements relating to graduates of career and technical education programs or programs of study for small business development centers and women's business centers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7667. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the user-fee programs for prescription drugs, medical devices, generic drugs, and biosimilar biological products, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7670. An act to amend the Small Business Act to require a report on small business concerns owned and controlled by women, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7694. An act to amend the Small Business Act to modify the requirements relating to the evaluation of the subcontracting plans of certain offerers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7776. An act to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7910. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for an increased age

limit on the purchase of certain firearms, prevent gun trafficking, modernize the prohibition on untraceable firearms, encourage the safe storage of firearms, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 2377. An act to authorize the issuance of extreme risk protection orders; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 5879. An act to amend the Small Business Act to clarify the application of the price evaluation preference for qualified HUBZone small business concerns to certain contracts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 7334. An act to extend the statute of limitations for fraud by borrowers under certain COVID-19 economic injury disaster loan programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 7352. An act to amend the Small Business Act to extend the statute of limitation for fraud by borrowers under the Paycheck Protection Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 7622. An act to amend the Small Business Act to include requirements relating to apprenticeship program assistance for small business development centers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 7664. An act to amend the Small Business Act to include requirements relating to graduates of career and technical education programs or programs of study for small business development centers and women's business centers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 7670. An act to amend the Small Business Act to require a report on small business concerns owned and controlled by women, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 7694. An act to amend the Small Business Act to modify the requirements relating to the evaluation of the subcontracting plans of certain offerors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 7776. An act to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

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

S. 138. A bill to waive certain pay limitations for Department of Agriculture and Department of the Interior employees engaged

in emergency wildland fire suppression activities, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-119).

H.R. 4363. An act to establish a daily public reporting requirement for covered contract awards of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-120).

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with amendments:

H.R. 6089. An act to clarify that section 107 of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act applies sanctions with respect to unmanned combat aerial vehicles following a 2019 change by the United Nations providing additional clarity to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. MENENDEZ for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Michael Battle, of Georgia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Republic of Tanzania.

Nominee: Michael A. Battle Sr.

Post: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to The United Republic of Tanzania.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

All the contributions listed below were jointly donated by me (Michael A. Battle Sr.) and my wife (Linda A. Battie): \$25, 2019-04-25, Biden; \$20, 2019-05-02, Biden; \$20, 2019-06-02, Biden; \$20, 2019-08-02, Biden; \$20, 2019-09-02, Biden; \$20, 2019-10-02, Biden; \$20, 2019-11-02, Biden; \$20, 2020-01-02, Biden; \$50, 2020-01-02, Biden; \$22, 2020-01-28, Biden; \$15, 2020-01-28, Biden; \$42, 2020-02-28, Biden; \$25, 2020-03-04, Biden; \$25, 2020-03-17, Biden; \$23, 2020-05-01, Biden; \$20, 2020-05-08, Biden; \$23, 2020-05-27, Biden; \$26, 2020-07-05, Biden; \$25, 2020-07-13, Biden; \$1,000, 2020-07-28, Biden; \$26, 2020-08-03, Biden; \$25, 2020-08-13, Biden; \$25, 2020-08-20, Biden; \$25, 2020-09-01, Biden; \$500, 2020-09-17, Biden; \$25, 2020-10-14, Biden; \$50, 2021-01-09, Biden; \$50, 2020-01-09, Warnock; \$25, 2021-08-10, Warnock; \$40, 2020-03-23, DNC*; \$20, 2020-04-22, DNC; \$40, 2020-05-06, DNC; \$10, 2020-08-20, DNC; \$25, 2021-01-23, DNC; \$50, 2020-12-01, GDP*; \$25, 2020-12-20, Biden.

Inaugural

*DNC Democratic National Committee

*GDP Georgia Democratic Party

Elizabeth H. Richard, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large.

Nominee: Elizabeth H. Richard.

Post: Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the Rank of Ambassador.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

Elizabeth Richard, None. Christopher Richard (spouse. Deceased), None.

Margaret C. Whitman, of Colorado, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Pleni-

potentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Kenya.

Nominee: Margaret Cushing Whitman.

Post: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Kenya.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, Amount, Date, and Donee:

General Motors Company Political Action Committee (GM PAC), \$5,000.00, 9/15/2021, Whitman, Margaret C; The Procter & Gamble Company Good Government Fund, \$5,000.00, 3/12/2021, Whitman Meg; New Hampshire Democratic Party, \$10,000.00, 10/5/2020, Whitman, Meg; Michigan Democratic State Central Committee, \$10,000.00, 9/9/2020, Whitman, Meg; Hickenlooper for Colorado, \$2,800.00, 9/8/2020, Whitman, Margaret; Hickenlooper Victory Fund, \$2,800.00 9/3/2020, Whitman, Meg; Brynne Kennedy for Congress, \$2,800.00, 8/26/2020, Whitman, Meg; Capito for West Virginia, \$1,000.00, 7/24/2020, Whitman, Meg; Nevada State Democratic Party, \$10,000.00 6/26/2020, Whitman, Meg; DNC Services Corp/Democratic National Committee, \$106,500.00, 6/26/2020, Whitman, Margaret; DNC Services Corp/Democratic National Committee, \$32,700.00 6/26/2020, Whitman, Margaret; Georgia Federal Elections Committee, \$10,000.00 6/26/2020, Whitman, Meg; New Jersey Democratic State Committee, \$10,000.00, 6/26/2020, Whitman, Margaret; Democratic State Committee (Delaware), \$10,000.00, 6/26/2020, Whitman, Margaret; Mississippi Democratic Party, \$10,000.00, 6/26/2020, Whitman, Margaret; Democratic State Central Committee of Maryland, \$10,000.00, 6/26/2020, Whitman, Margaret; Arizona Democratic Party, \$10,000.00, 6/26/2020, Whitman, Margaret C; Democratic State Central Committee of LA, \$10,000.00, 6/26/2020, Whitman, Margaret C; Massachusetts Democratic State Committee, \$10,000.00, 6/26/2020, Whitman, Margaret; Biden Victory Fund, \$500,000.00, 6/26/2020, Whitman, Margaret; Texas Democratic Party, \$10,000.00, 6/26/2020, Whitman, Meg; Democratic Party of Wisconsin, \$10,000.00, 6/26/2020, Whitman, Margaret; Kansas Democratic Party, \$10,000.00, 6/26/2020, Whitman, Meg; Nebraska Democratic Party, \$10,000.00, 6/26/2020, Whitman, Margaret C; Democratic Executive Committee of Florida, \$10,000.00, 6/26/2020, Whitman, Margaret C; Ohio Democratic Party, \$10,000.00, 6/26/2020, Whitman, Margaret C; Democratic Party of Virginia, \$10,000.00, 6/26/2020, Whitman, Margaret, C; Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, \$10,000.00, 6/26/2020, Whitman, Margaret; Pennsylvania Democratic Party, \$10,000.00 6/26/2020, Whitman, Meg; DNC Services Corp/Democratic National Committee, \$14,500.00, 6/26/2020, Whitman, Margaret C MS; DNC Services Corp/Democratic National Committee, \$92,000.00, 6/26/2020, Whitman, Margaret, C MS; DNC Services Corp/Democratic National Committee, \$4,300.00, 6/26/2020, Whitman, Meg C.; Colorado Democratic Party, \$10,000.00, 6/26/2020, Whitman, Margaret C; North Carolina Democratic Party—Federal, \$10,000.00, 6/26/2020, Whitman, Meg; State Democratic Executive Committee of Alabama, \$10,000.00, 6/26/2020, Whitman, Margaret; WVDP, \$10,000.00, 6/26/2020, Whitman, Meg; New York State Democratic Committee, \$10,000.00, 6/26/2020, Whitman, Meg; DNC Services Corp/Democratic National Committee, \$2,800.00, 6/3/2020, Whitman, Margaret; Biden Victory Fund, \$5,600.00, 6/3/2020, Whitman Meg; Biden for President, \$2,800.00, 6/3/2020, Whitman, Meg; The Procter & Gamble Company Good Government Fund, \$5,000.00, 3/12/2020, Whitman, Meg; Jersey Values PAC, \$5,000.00, 11/6/2019, Whitman, Meg;

Across the Aisle PAC, \$5,000.00, 11/6/2019, Whitman, Margaret; Josh Gottheimer for Congress, \$2,800.00, 10/31/2019, Whitman, Margaret; Josh Gottheimer for Congress, \$2,800.00, 10/31/2019, Whitman, Meg; Max Rose for Congress, \$2,200.00, 10/31/2019, Whitman, Margaret; Elaine for Congress, \$2,200.00 10/31/2019, Whitman, Margaret; Biden for President, \$2,800.00, 9/26/2019, Whitman, Margaret; Hickenlooper 2020, \$2,000.00, 4/30/2019, Whitman, Margaret; The Procter & Gamble Company Good Government Fund, \$5,000.00, 3/26/2019, Whitman, Margaret C; American Possibilities PAC, \$5,000.00, 10/4/2018, Whitman, Margaret C; Josh Gottheimer for Congress, \$2,700.00, 10/4/2018, Whitman, Margaret; DCCC, \$1,499.98, 9/28/2018, Whitman, Margaret; UNITE America Election Fund, \$95,500.00, 9/25/2018, Whitman, Meg; Red to Blue Victory Fund, \$2,500.00, 9/24/2018, Whitman, Margaret; Romney for Utah, Inc., \$2,700.00, 6/26/2018, Whitman, Meg; Romney for Utah Inc., \$2,700.00, 6/26/2018, Whitman, Margaret C; Manchin for West Virginia, \$2,700.00, 6/7/2018, Whitman, Margaret C; Manchin for West Virginia, \$2,700.00, 6/7/2018, Whitman, Margaret C.; House Majority PAC, \$25,000.00, 5/31/2018, Whitman, Margaret; Hewlett Packard Enterprise Company PAC (HPE PAC), \$5,000.00, 5/31/2018, Whitman, Meg; The Procter & Gamble Company Good Government Fund, \$5,000.00, 4/4/2018, Whitman, Margaret C MS; Tom Reed for Congress, \$2,700.00, 11/16/2017, Whitman Margaret C MS; Team Graham Inc., \$2,500.00, 10/27/2017, Whitman, Meg C; Project West Political Action Committee, \$2,500.00, 10/23/2017, Whitman, Margaret C; Denali Leadership PAC, \$2,500.00, 9/30/2017, Whitman, Meg; Sensible American Solutions Supporting Everyone PAC, \$5,000.00, 9/29/2017, Whitman, Margaret; Dirigo PAC, \$2,500.00, 9/28/2017, Whitman, Meg; Comstock for Congress, \$2,700.00, 9/27/2017, Whitman, Meg; Josh Gottheimer for Congress, \$2,700.00, 9/24/2017, Whitman, Margaret; Jeff Flake for US Senate Inc., \$2,700.00, 9/20/2017, Whitman, Meg; Jeff Flake for US Senate Inc., \$2,700.00, 9/20/2017, Whitman, Meg; Team Josh, \$2,700.00, 9/11/2017, Whitman, Meg; Citizens for Josh Mandel Inc., \$2,700.00, 9/11/2017, Whitman, Meg; The Procter & Gamble Company Good Government Fund, \$5,000.00, 3/27/2017, Whitman, Margaret; Hewlett Packard Enterprise Company PAC (HPE PAC), \$5,000.00, 3/9/2017, Whitman, Margaret; Griffith Harsh—None.

Mari Carmen Aponte, of Puerto Rico, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Panama.

Nominee: Mari Carmen Aponte.

Post: Republic of Panama.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

Committee to re-elect Nydia M. Velazquez to Congress, \$1,000, 03/21/18, Mari Carmen Aponte; Menendez for Senate, \$500, 03/22/18, Mari Carmen Aponte; Menendez for Senate, \$500, 03/26/18, Mari Carmen Aponte; Kaine for Virginia, \$250, 04/09/18, Mari Carmen Aponte; Beto for Texas, \$1,000, 07/18/18, Mari Carmen Aponte; Espallat for Congress, \$500, 08/20/18, Mari Carmen Aponte; Menendez for Senate, \$1,000, 10/17/18, Mari Carmen Aponte; Menendez for Senate, \$1,000, 11/01/18, Mari Carmen Aponte; Committee to re-elect Nydia M. Velazquez to Congress, \$1,000, 03/19/19, Mari Carmen Aponte; ActBlue, \$100, 04/25/19, Mari Carmen Aponte; Biden for President, \$1,000, 08/06/19, Mari Carmen Aponte; Committee to re-elect Nydia M. Velazquez to Congress,

\$750, 09/09/19, Mari Carmen Aponte; Melissa Mark-Viverito for the Bronx, \$1,000, 09/18/19, Mari Carmen Aponte; Biden for President, \$500, 12/09/19, Mari Carmen Aponte; Biden for President, \$500, 03/01/20, Mari Carmen Aponte; Anibal Comisionado 2020, \$500, 03/06/20, Mari Carmen Aponte; Biden for President, \$1,000, 04/08/20, Mari Carmen Aponte; Biden for President, \$700, 04/08/20, Mari Carmen Aponte; Biden for President, \$250, 04/30/20, Mari Carmen Aponte; Biden for President, \$1,000, 06/09/20, Mari Carmen Aponte; Biden for President, \$25, 06/16/20, Mari Carmen Aponte; ActBlue, \$25, 06/16/20, Mari Carmen Aponte; Biden for President, \$10, 06/17/20, Mari Carmen Aponte; Committee to re-elect Nydia M. Velazquez to Congress, \$1,000, 06/18/20, Mari Carmen Aponte; Anibal Comisionado 2020, \$500, 06/23/20, Mari Carmen Aponte; Biden Victory Fund, \$5, 07/02/20, Mari Carmen Aponte; Biden for President, \$5, 07/02/20, Mari Carmen Aponte; Biden Victory Fund, \$250, 07/14/20, Mari Carmen Aponte; Biden for President, \$250, 07/14/20, Mari Carmen Aponte; Biden Victory Fund, \$5,600, 07/22/20, Mari Carmen Aponte; Biden for President, \$560, 07/22/20, Mari Carmen Aponte; Pres. Transition Fund, \$5,000, 08/03/20, Mari Carmen Aponte; Biden Victory Fund, \$25, 08/12/20, Mari Carmen Aponte; Michelle for Kansas, \$1,000, 09/07/20, Mari Carmen Aponte; Anibal Comisionado 2020, \$500, 09/08/20, Mari Carmen Aponte; Menendez for Senate, \$1,000, 09/20/20, Mari Carmen Aponte; Blue Victory Fund, \$250, 10/02/20, Mari Carmen Aponte; Committee to re-elect Nydia M. Velazquez to Congress, \$2,800, 10/04/20, Mari Carmen Aponte; Blue Victor Fund, \$275, 10/11/20, Mari Carmen Aponte; Biden Victory Fund, \$50, 10/15/20, Mari Carmen Aponte; Anibal Comisionado 2020, \$250, 10/19/20, Mari Carmen Aponte; Black Economic Alliance PAC, \$1,000, 12/01/20, Mari Carmen Aponte; Sharice for Congress, \$250, 03/26/21, Mari Carmen Aponte; Committee to re-elect Nydia M. Velazquez to Congress, \$2,500, 04/01/21, Mari Carmen Aponte; Menendez for Senate, \$900, 05/27/21, Mari Carmen Aponte; Menendez for Senate, \$100, 05/27/21, Mari Carmen Aponte; Voto Latino, \$500, 06/03/21, Mari Carmen Aponte.

Michelle Kwan, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Belize.

Nominee: Michelle Kwan.

Post: Belize.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

Biden for President, \$25, 1/20/20, Michelle Kwan; Act Blue, \$25, 1/20/20, Michelle Kwan; Biden for President, \$250, 9/16/20, Michelle Kwan.

Michael J. Adler, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of South Sudan.

Nominee: Michael Adler.

Post: South Sudan.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

Self: None.

John T. Godfrey, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Ex-

traordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of the Sudan.

Nominee: John T. Godfrey.

Post: Ambassador to the Republic of Sudan.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

None, John T. Godfrey.

None, Jennifer J. Hall Godfrey.

Michael C. Gonzales, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Zambia.

Nominee: Michael C. Gonzales.

Post: U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Zambia.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, Amount, Date, and Donee:

Biden for President, \$400, April 27, 2020, Self; ActBlue (for Pete Buttigieg), \$100, August 10, 2019, Self; ActBlue (for Kamala Harris), \$250, January 26, 2019, Self.

Carol Ann Jenkins—Spouse—None.

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

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

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Roxana Aguirre and ending with Peter S. Zube, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 17, 2021.

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Barrett David Bumpas and ending with Charles Y. Wang, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 28, 2022. (minus 1 nominee: Ryan Giralte)

By Mr. DURBIN for the Committee on the Judiciary.

John Z. Lee, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

Salvador Mendoza, Jr., of Washington, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Stephen Henley Locher, of Iowa, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Iowa.

Nancy L. Maldonado, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Gregory Brian Williams, of Delaware, to be United States District Judge for the District of Delaware.

Joshua D. Hurwit, of Idaho, to be United States Attorney for the District of Idaho, for the term of four years.

Gerard M. Karam, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Pennsylvania for the term of four years.

Jacqueline C. Romero, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern

District of Pennsylvania for the term of four years.

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

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE—TREATY

The following executive report of committee was submitted:

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations:

Treaty Doc. 115-3: Amendments to the Treaty on Fisheries between the Governments of Certain Pacific Island States and the Government of the United States of America with 1 declaration (Ex. Rept. 117-3)

The text of the committee-recommended resolution of advice and consent to ratification is as follows:

Resolved (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),

Section 1. Senate Advice and Consent Subject to a Declaration

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Amendments to the Treaty on Fisheries between the Governments of Certain Pacific Island States and the Government of the United States of America done at Port Moresby April 2, 1987, as amended, done at Nadi, Fiji, December 3, 2016 ("the Amendments") (Treaty Doc. 115-3), subject to the declaration of section 2.

Section 2. Declaration

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following declaration:

The Amendments are not self-executing.

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. SANDERS (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PADILLA, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 4365. A bill to enhance Social Security benefits and ensure the long-term solvency of the Social Security program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 4366. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to seek to cooperate with allies and partners in the Middle East to identify an architecture and develop an acquisition approach for certain countries in the Middle East to implement an integrated air and missile defense capability to protect the people, infrastructure, and territory of such countries from cruise and ballistic missiles, manned and unmanned aerial system, and rocket attacks from Iran, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. OSSOFF, Ms. ERNST, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 4367. A bill to improve certain sexual assault and domestic violence prevention policies; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. SASSE, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 4368. A bill to establish the Office of Global Competition Analysis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. MORAN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 4369. A bill to allow States and local educational agencies to use any remaining COVID-19 elementary and secondary school emergency relief funds for school security measures; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. DAINES, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 4370. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for extensions of detention of certain aliens ordered removed, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 4371. A bill to establish the Cesar E. Chavez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park in the States of California and Arizona, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 4372. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to carry out a pilot program on developing and testing dynamic management of special activity airspace, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

S. 4373. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to modify delayed notice requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. WARREN:

S. 4374. A bill to prevent price gouging at the Department of Defense; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 4375. A bill to amend titles 10 and 37, United States Code, to establish special pay and allowances for members of the Armed Forces assigned to cold weather operations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. THUNE):

S. 4376. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, relating to sentencing of armed career criminals; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 4377. A bill to designate the El Paso Community Healing Garden National Memorial, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. Res. 668. A resolution designating June 12, 2022, as "Women Veterans Appreciation Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. RISCH):

S. Res. 669. A resolution condemning the use of hunger as a weapon of war and recognizing the effect of conflict on global food security and famine; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 346

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 346, a bill to end preventable maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity in the United States and close disparities in maternal health outcomes, and for other purposes.

S. 1116

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1116, a bill to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to create a presumption that a disability or death of a Federal employee in fire protection activities caused by any of certain diseases is the result of the performance of such employees duty, and for other purposes.

S. 1167

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1167, a bill to eliminate subsidies for fossil-fuel production.

S. 1302

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1302, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 1428

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1428, a bill to prohibit brand name drug companies from compensating generic drug companies to delay the entry of a generic drug into the market, and to prohibit biological product manufacturers from compensating biosimilar and interchangeable companies to delay the entry of biosimilar biological products and interchangeable biological products.

S. 1625

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1625, a bill to authorize notaries public to perform, and to establish minimum standards for, electronic notarizations and remote notarizations that occur in or affect interstate commerce, to require any Federal court to recognize notarizations performed by a notarial officer of any State, to require any State to recognize notarizations performed by a notarial officer of any

other State when the notarization was performed under or relates to a public Act, record, or judicial proceeding of the notarial officer's State or when the notarization occurs in or affects interstate commerce, and for other purposes.

S. 1692

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 1692, a bill to provide better care and outcomes for Americans living with Alzheimer's disease and related to dementias and their caregivers, while accelerating progress toward prevention strategies, disease modifying treatments, and, ultimately, a cure.

S. 2964

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2964, a bill to clarify the status of the North Country, Ice Age, and New England National Scenic Trails as units of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

S. 3357

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3357, a bill to substantially restrict the use of animal testing for cosmetics.

S. 3603

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3603, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to improve the ability of veterans to access medical care in medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs and in the community by providing veterans the ability to choose health care providers.

S. 3607

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3607, a bill to award a Congressional gold medal, collectively, to the First Rhode Island Regiment, in recognition of their dedicated service during the Revolutionary War.

S. 3711

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3711, a bill to ensure that no cost reduction or cash refund is due under certain transportation cost-reimbursement contracts on the basis of the forgiveness of certain covered loans, and for other purposes.

S. 3741

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3741, a bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds for the private interim storage of spent nuclear fuel, and for other purposes.

S. 3797

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3797, a bill to amend title V of the Social Security Act to support still-birth prevention and research, and for other purposes.

S. 3956

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3956, a bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a grant program to improve the effectiveness of education and outreach on "Do Not Flush" labeling, and to require the Federal Trade Commission, in consultation with the Administrator, to issue regulations requiring certain products to have "Do Not Flush" labeling, and for other purposes.

S. 4102

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 4102, a bill to amend title XVI of the Social Security Act to update the resource limit for supplemental security income eligibility.

S. 4217

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4217, a bill to ensure transparent and competitive transportation fuel markets in order to protect consumers from unwarranted price increases.

S. 4272

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4272, a bill to improve promotion practices in the National Guard, and for other purposes.

S. 4278

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4278, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the purchase of certain firearms by individuals under 21 years of age, and for other purposes.

S. 4290

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4290, a bill to impose certain requirements relating to the renegotiation or reentry into the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action or other agreement relating to Iran's nuclear program, and for other purposes.

S. 4316

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4316, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to update and clarify its rule on substances generally recognized as safe and to es-

tablish within the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition of the Food and Drug Administration the Office of Food Chemical Safety Reassessment, and for other purposes.

S. 4331

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4331, a bill to require a plan on emergency military assistance to Taiwan and other support to Taiwan's defensive capabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 4364

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4364, a bill to prohibit contracting with persons that have business operations with the Government of the Russian Federation or the Russian energy sector, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 664

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 664, a resolution expressing opposition to the criminalization of essential healthcare, including the full range of sexual and reproductive healthcare such as abortion, gender-affirming care, and contraceptive care, and disapproving of the criminalization of pregnancy outcomes.

AMENDMENT NO. 5048

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 5048 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3967, a bill to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 5061

At the request of Ms. LUMMIS, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 5061 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3967, a bill to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 5072

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 5072 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3967, a bill to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 5075

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 5075 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3967, a bill to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. OSSOFF, Ms. ERNST, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 4367. A bill to improve certain sexual assault and domestic violence prevention policies; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print my bill for introduction in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The bill improves certain sexual assault and domestic violence prevention policies.

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

S. 4367

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 “Protecting our Servicemembers through Proven Methods Act of 2022”.

SEC. 2. ANNUAL PRIMARY PREVENTION RESEARCH AGENDA.

Section 549A(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117–81) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) as paragraphs (5), (6), and (7), respectively;

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraphs:

“(2) include a focus on whether and to what extent sub-populations of the military community may be targeted for sexual assault, sexual harassment, or domestic violence more than others;

“(3) seek to identify factors that influence the prevention, perpetration, and victimization of sexual assault, sexual harassment, and domestic violence;

“(4) seek to improve the collection and dissemination of data on hazing and bullying related to sexual assault, sexual harassment, and domestic violence;”; and

(3) in paragraph (6), as redesignated by paragraph (1) of this section, by amending the text to read as follows:

“(6) incorporate collaboration with other Federal departments and agencies, including the Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, State governments, academia, industry, federally funded research and development centers, nonprofit organizations, and other organizations outside of the Department of Defense, including civilian institutions that conduct similar data-driven studies, collection, and analysis; and”.

SEC. 3. PRIMARY PREVENTION WORKFORCE.

Section 549B of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117–81) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report comparing the sexual harassment and prevention training of the Department of Defense with similar programs at other Federal departments and agencies and including data collected by colleges and universities and other relevant outside entities.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) INCORPORATION OF RESEARCH AND FINDINGS.—The Primary Prevention Workforce

established under subsection (a) shall, on a regular basis, incorporate findings and conclusions from the primary prevention research agenda established under section 549A, as appropriate, into the work of the workforce.”.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 4371. A bill to establish the Cesar E. Chavez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park in the States of California and Arizona, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park Act.

This legislation would establish the César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park in California and Arizona to preserve the nationally significant sites associated with César Chávez and the farm worker movement.

In 2008, with strong bipartisan support, Congress enacted legislation directing the National Park Service to conduct a special resource study of sites that are significant to the life of César Chávez and the farm labor movement in the Western United States. The National Park Service evaluated over 100 sites that were significant to César Chávez and the farm labor movement in the Western United States and found that five sites were “nationally significant.” Importantly, the Park Service wrote that these nationally significant sites depict a distinct and important aspect of American history associated with civil rights and labor movements that are not adequately represented or protected elsewhere. While the Park Service provided five management alternatives to protect these special places, they ultimately recommended that Congress establish a national historic park that would include several nationally significant sites.

In 2012, President Obama established the César E. Chávez National Monument. The property is in Keene, CA and is known as Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz. In his Presidential Proclamation, President Obama said: “This site marks the extraordinary achievements and contributions to the history of the United States made by César Chávez and the farm worker movement that he led with great vision and fortitude. La Paz reflects his conviction that ordinary people can do extraordinary things.”

While this was a critical step forward, the National Monument leaves out many nationally significant sites and leaves many important stories untold. The creation of a national historical park, as originally recommended by the Park Service, would allow the National Park Service to tell the full story of César Chávez and the farm labor movement for the benefit of all Americans.

This legislation would establish the Forty Acres in Delano, CA; the César

E. Chávez National Monument, which includes La Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz, in Keene, CA; and the Santa Rita Center in Phoenix, AZ, as part of a new César E. Chávez and Farmworker Movement National Historical Park. These sites contain nationally significant resources associated with César Chávez and the farmworker movement and would be preserved and protected as part of the National Park System.

This legislation would also establish a new National Historic Trail that would commemorate the 1966 Delano to Sacramento March, a major milestone event in the farm labor movement. According to the Special Resource Study, “More than one hundred men and women set out from Delano on March 17, 1966, and thousands of farm workers and their families joined in for short stretches along the way. By the time the marchers entered Sacramento on Easter Sunday, April 10, 1966, the farm worker movement had secured a contract and attracted new waves of support from across the country.”

We must honor and celebrate the life and legacy of César Chávez, the inspirational civil rights advocate and leader of the farm labor movement whose impact reverberated in California and across the world. His list of accomplishments is long, from creating the Nation’s first permanent agricultural labor union to helping secure passage of the first American law that recognized farm workers’ rights to organize.

While widely respected as the most important Latino leader in the United States in the 20th century, César Chávez was not just a leader for the Latino community. Following the principles of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr., César Chávez led a nonviolent movement of protests and boycotts to secure a union, better pay, and better working conditions for farmworkers. He also played a leading role in the broader labor movement, the Chicano movement, and the environmental movement. For Chávez, it did not matter where you came from or what your job was: he believed in the fundamental right to dignity and respect.

But this park will not just focus on Chavez’s legacy; it will also preserve the thousands of stories of people who played a role in the broader farm labor movement. According to the Special Resource Study, “During the 1960s, the farm labor movement attracted support from a wide array of individuals, including members of other unions, religious leaders, civil rights activists, high school students and college students (including young Chicanos and Filipinos), environmentalists, and justice-minded consumers across the country and abroad.”

As the son of immigrants from Mexico and the first Latino to represent California in the U.S. Senate, I believe the movement César Chávez created is just as important today as it ever has been. The National Park System—which preserves our natural, historical, and cultural heritage while offering

vital spaces for teaching, learning, and outdoor recreation—must paint the full mosaic of America. Through the sites preserved by this bill, we can ensure that the National Park System preserves the diverse history of our Nation that is too often overlooked. As a farm worker himself, César Chávez maintained a strong connection to the natural environment. This bill uplifts his story and those of others whose contributions helped build the farmworker and civil rights movements that are pillars of American history.

I thank the bill's cosponsors in the Senate and House of Representatives, and I especially want to thank Congressman RUIZ for spearheading this effort with me to ensure that our national monuments and historical parks better reflect the diversity of America's heritage.

Today and every day, let's recommit to the work César Chávez began. As he would say: *La Lucha Sigue*. We must not waver as we keep up the fight for justice and equality for all.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact the César E. Chávez National Historical Park Act as quickly as possible.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 4372. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to carry out a pilot program on developing and testing dynamic management of special activity airspace, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. THUNE. 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. 4372

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 "Dynamic Airspace Pilot Program Act of 2022."

SEC. 2. DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING OF DYNAMIC SCHEDULING AND MANAGEMENT OF SPECIAL ACTIVITY AIRSPACE.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON SPECIAL ACTIVITY AIRSPACE SCHEDULING AND MANAGEMENT.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) where it does not conflict with safety, dynamic scheduling and management of special activity airspace (also referred to as "dynamic airspace") is expected to optimize the use of the national airspace system for all stakeholders; and

(2) the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration and the Secretary of Defense should take such actions as may be necessary to support ongoing efforts to develop dynamic scheduling and management of special activity airspace, including—

(A) the continuation of formal partnerships between the Federal Aviation Administration and the Department of Defense that focus on special activity airspace, future airspace needs, and joint solutions; and

(B) maturing research within their federally funded research and development cen-

ters, Federal partner agencies, and the aviation community.

(b) PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, shall establish a pilot program on developing and testing dynamic management of special activity airspace in order to accommodate emerging military training requirements through flexible scheduling, along with increasing access to special activity airspace used by the Department of Defense for test and training.

(2) TESTING OF SPECIAL ACTIVITY AIRSPACE SCHEDULING AND MANAGEMENT.—Under the pilot program established under paragraph (1), the Administrator and the Secretary shall jointly test not fewer than three areas of episodic or permanent special activity airspace designated by the Federal Aviation Administration for use by the Department of Defense, of which—

(A) at least one shall be over coastal waters of the United States;

(B) at least two shall be over land of the United States;

(C) access to airspace available for test and training is increased to accommodate dynamic scheduling of airspace to more efficiently and realistically provide test and training capabilities to Department of Defense aircrews; and

(D) any increase in access to airspace made available for test and training shall not conflict with the safe management of the national airspace system or the safety of all stakeholders of the national airspace system.

(c) REPORT BY THE ADMINISTRATOR.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less than two years after the date of the establishment of the pilot program under subsection (b)(1), the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the interim findings of the Administrator with respect to the pilot program.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An analysis of how the pilot program established under subsection (b)(1) affected access to special activity airspace by non-military users of the national airspace system.

(B) An analysis of whether the dynamic management of special activity airspace conducted for the pilot program established under subsection (b)(1) contributed to more efficient use of the national airspace system by all stakeholders.

(d) REPORT BY THE SECRETARY.—Not less than two years after the date of the establishment of the pilot program under subsection (b)(1), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the interim findings of the Secretary with respect to the pilot program. Such report shall include an analysis of how the pilot program affected military test and training.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term "appropriate committees of Congress" means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) The term "special activity airspace" means the following airspace with defined dimensions within the National Airspace System wherein limitations may be imposed upon aircraft operations:

(A) Restricted areas.

(B) Military operations areas.

(C) Air Traffic Control assigned airspace.

(D) Warning areas.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 668—DESIGNATING JUNE 12, 2022, AS "WOMEN VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY"

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. BRAUN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

Whereas, throughout every period of the history of the United States, women have proudly served the United States to secure and preserve freedom and liberty for—

(1) the people of the United States; and

(2) the allies of the United States;

Whereas women have formally been a part of the Armed Forces since the establishment of the Army Nurse Corps in 1901 but have informally served since the inception of the United States military;

Whereas over 3,000,000 women have served the United States honorably and with valor on land, on sea, in the air, and in space, including—

(1) as "Molly Pitchers" during the American Revolution, providing support to the Continental Army and taking their place on the artillery gun lines as soldiers fell;

(2) by passing as men to serve as soldiers during the Revolutionary War, the Early Republic, and the Civil War;

(3) as doctors, nurses, ambulance drivers, and Signal Corps telephone operator "Hello Girls" during World War I;

(4) as, during World War II—

(A) members of the Women's Army Corps (commonly known as "WACs");

(B) Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (commonly known as "WAVES");

(C) members of the Coast Guard Women's Reserve (commonly known as "SPARS");

(D) Women Airforce Service Pilots (commonly known as "WASPs"); and

(E) nurses;

(5) as permanent members of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force, serving as nurses, physicians, physical therapists, air traffic controllers, intelligence specialists, communications specialists, logisticians, and clerks in the Korean War and Vietnam War; and

(6) as fixed and rotary wing combat pilots, surface warfare sailors, submariners, artillerymen, air defenders, engineers, military police, intelligence specialists, civil affairs specialists, logisticians, and, most recently, in all combat roles in the Persian Gulf, Iraq, and Afghanistan;

Whereas, as of 2020, women constitute approximately 17 percent of Armed Forces personnel on active duty, including—

(1) 21 percent of active duty personnel in the Air Force and Space Force;

(2) 20 percent of active duty personnel in the Navy;

(3) 16 percent of active duty personnel in the Army;

(4) 9 percent of active duty personnel in the Marine Corps; and

(5) 15 percent of active duty personnel in the Coast Guard;

Whereas, as of September 2020, women constitute more than 21 percent of personnel in the National Guard and Reserves;

Whereas women have been critical to COVID-19 relief, including as part of the personnel in the National Guard and Reserves

activated to support COVID-19 response efforts;

Whereas women have been critical to responding to the unjustified invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, including as members of the National Guard and as active duty personnel in the Armed Forces who have been deployed to contribute to foreign assistance efforts;

Whereas 13 members of the Armed Forces, including 2 women, were killed during Operation Allies Refuge, in which over 120,000 people were evacuated in the largest civilian airlift in the history of the United States;

Whereas, in 2020—

(1) the population of women veterans reached nearly 2,000,000, which represents a significant increase from 713,000 women veterans in 1980; and

(2) women veterans constitute approximately 10 percent of the total veteran population;

Whereas women are the fastest growing group in the veteran population;

Whereas an estimated 1 in 3 women veterans enrolled in the healthcare system of the Department of Veterans Affairs report having experienced military sexual trauma (MST) during their military service;

Whereas the United States is proud of, and appreciates, the service of all women veterans who have demonstrated great skill, sacrifice, and commitment to defending the principles upon which the United States was founded and which the United States continues to uphold;

Whereas women veterans have unique stories and should be encouraged to share their recollections through the Veterans History Project, a part of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, which has worked since 2000, to collect and share the personal accounts of wartime veterans in the United States; and

Whereas, by designating June 12, 2022, as “Women Veterans Appreciation Day”, the Senate can—

(1) highlight the growing presence of women in the Armed Forces and the National Guard; and

(2) pay respect to women veterans for their patriotic military service: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates June 12, 2022, as “Women Veterans Appreciation Day” to recognize the service and sacrifices of women veterans who have served valiantly on behalf of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 669—CONDEMNING THE USE OF HUNGER AS A WEAPON OF WAR AND RECOGNIZING THE EFFECT OF CONFLICT ON GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY AND FAMINE

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. RISCH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 669

Whereas in 2020, 155,000,000 people experienced crisis levels of food insecurity (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification phase 3 or above), with nearly 100,000,000 people living in environments where conflict was the main driver of hunger, and the COVID-19 pandemic has worsened rising global food insecurity;

Whereas conflict acutely impacts vulnerable populations such as women and children, persons with disabilities, refugees, and internally displaced persons;

Whereas armed conflict impacts on food security can be direct, such as displacement from land, destruction of livestock grazing areas and fishing grounds, or destruction of food stocks and agricultural assets, or indirect, such as disruptions to food systems, leading to increased food prices or decreased household purchasing power, or decreased access to supplies that are necessary for food preparation, including water and fuel;

Whereas conflict disrupts the distribution and buying and selling of food within a food system due to a shortage of produce, risk, or perceived risk of travel, the formation of illegal distribution channels and markets, and the breakdown of a government's ability to enforce regulations or perform its judiciary functions;

Whereas aerial bombing campaigns targeting agricultural heartlands, scorched earth methods of warfare, and the use of landmines and other explosive devices have direct impacts on the ability of vulnerable populations to feed themselves;

Whereas effective humanitarian response in armed conflict, including in the threat of conflict-induced famine and food insecurity in situations of armed conflict, requires respect for international humanitarian law by all parties to the conflict, and allowing and facilitating the rapid and unimpeded movement of humanitarian relief to all those in need;

Whereas efforts to restrict humanitarian aid and the operational integrity and impartiality of humanitarian aid works and distribution efforts, including through blockades, security impediments, or irregular bureaucratic requirements is another means by which combatants employ starvation and food deprivation as a weapon of war; and

Whereas the United States Government has the tools to fight global hunger, protect lifesaving assistance, and promote the prevention of conflict, including through the Global Fragility Act of 2019 (title V of division J of Public Law 116-94), the Global Food Security Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-195), and the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-334), and has the potential to hold accountable those using hunger as a weapon of war through the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of Public Law 114-328): Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the use of hunger as a weapon of war through the—

(A) starvation of civilians;

(B) intentional and reckless destruction, removing, looting, or rendering useless objects necessary for food production and distribution such as farmland, markets, mills, food processing and storage areas, foodstuffs, crops, livestock, agricultural assets, waterways, water systems, drinking water installations and supplies, and irrigation works;

(C) denial of humanitarian access and the deprivation of objects indispensable to people's survival, such as food supplies and nutrition resources; and

(D) willful interruption of market systems to affected populations in need in conflict environments by preventing travel and manipulating currency exchange; and

(2) calls on the United States Government to—

(A) prioritize diplomatic efforts to call out and address instances where hunger and intentional deprivation of food is being utilized as a weapon of war, including efforts to ensure that security operations do not undermine livelihoods of local populations to minimize civilian harm;

(B) continue efforts to address severe food insecurity through humanitarian response efforts, including in-kind food assistance, vouchers, and other flexible modalities;

(C) ensure existing interagency strategies, crisis response efforts, and ongoing programs consider, integrate, and adapt to address conflict by utilizing crisis modifiers in United States Agency for International Development programming to respond to rapid shocks and stress such as the willful targeting of food systems; and

(D) ensure that the use of hunger as a weapon of war is considered within the employment of tools to hold individuals, governments, militias, or entities responsible such as the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 2656), where appropriate, and taking into consideration the need for humanitarian exemptions and the protection of lifesaving assistance.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5076. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3967, to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5076. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3967, to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end add the following:

SEC. . EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 4 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I have eight requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a) of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 9, 2022, 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, June 9, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 9, 2022, at 10:15 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, June 9, 2022, at 9 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMODITIES, RISK MANAGEMENT, AND TRADE

The Subcommittee on Commodities, Risk Management, and Trade of the

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 9, 2022, at 11 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CHEMICAL SAFETY, WASTE MANAGEMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AND REGULATORY OVERSIGHT

The Subcommittee on Chemical Safety, Waste Management, Environmental Justice, and Regulatory Oversight of the Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 9, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS, MEDIA, AND BROADBAND

The Subcommittee on Communications, Media, and Broadband of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 9, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE AND REGIONAL SECURITY COOPERATION

The Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation of the Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of

the Senate on Thursday, June 9, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2022

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m. on Monday, June 13; 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, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of Calendar No. 388, H.R. 3967; further, that the cloture motions filed during today's session ripen at 5:30 p.m. on Monday.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2022, AT 3 P.M.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:48 p.m., adjourned until Monday, June 13, 2022, at 3 p.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate June 9, 2022:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SAMUEL R. BAGENSTOS, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD

DANA KATHERINE BILYEU, OF NEVADA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 11, 2023.

LEONA M. BRIDGES, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 11, 2023.

STACIE OLIVARES, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 25, 2024.

MICHAEL F. GERBER, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 25, 2022.

MICHAEL F. GERBER, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 25, 2026.

THE JUDICIARY

ROBERT STEVEN HUIE, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.