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No. 168

Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, our shelter in the time of storm, in an anxious, troubled, and violent world, we turn to You seeking light and life for our day, faith and freedom for our world, and triumph and truth for this generation.

Abide with our lawmakers. Make them mindful of Your presence, eager to do Your will, and committed to serve this land we love. Lord, use them to work for the triumph of truth. Strengthen them with Your Spirit so that they will meet today's challenges with daring faith and transcendent wisdom.

Hasten the day when justice shall reign in the relationships of people, and peace shall regulate the affairs of nations.

Lord, bless the people of France.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST FRANCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as the Senate convenes today, the world faces yet

another horrific terrorist act, this time against America's oldest ally, France. Across our great Nation, Americans have displayed the French flag across buildings, monuments, and Facebook pages in solidarity with France, a country with which we have long shared democratic values.

We, too, have felt the searing shock and pain of terrorism on our own soil, and just as France stood with us after the 9/11 attacks, we stand with France today. I personally express my condolences for those in France who lost a loved one. To the mothers, fathers, grandparents, children, friends, and relatives, we mourn with you. To all those in the midst of caring for loved ones, those injured in these evil attacks—as hundreds were—our hearts and our thoughts are with you.

There are no words to adequately describe the barbarism of ISIS, the organization that carried out this attack and mowed down innocent civilians enjoying the freedom and beauty of a Paris night, but as we know, the attacks in Paris do not stand alone. ISIS has viciously attacked innocent people in Beirut, Syria, Iraq, Libya, and other places. They have beheaded Americans, beheaded others, instituted a policy of rape and violence against women, and are attempting to take civilization back to the Dark Ages. ISIS does not worship Islam. ISIS worships death. ISIS doesn't practice compassion and mercy. ISIS practices killing, torture, and violence. Instead of guiding its followers on the straight and narrow path, ISIS guides them to hate.

As Pope Francis said yesterday:

The road of violence and hate does not resolve the problems of humanity. Using God's name to justify this path is blasphemy.

The Pope is right.

Law-abiding Muslims—many of whom have also been innocent victims of terror—must not allow these radicals to be the face of their religion. We cannot allow it. They cannot allow it. I know I speak for the Senate in saying

we are all committed to stopping ISIS. We are united in supporting France in every possible way, as the people of France move forward after these attacks.

I repeat, as the Pope said yesterday:

The road of violence and hate does not resolve the problems of humanity. Using God's name to justify this path is blasphemy.

Will the Chair announce today's business.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

THE HONOR OF SERVING MY STATE AND COUNTRY

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, today I received an announcement of a lifetime. At 4 p.m. today, the President of the United States informed me that I will receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom. I want to thank him for this honor and to say that I am deeply, deeply touched to join this group on November 14 of 17 Americans to receive this award.

The Presidential Medal of Freedom is the Nation's highest civilian honor. It

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



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is presented to individuals who have especially made contributions to the security and national interests of the United States, to people who have worked for world peace, who have found cures for incredible diseases, and who have done cultural and other significant things of public or private endeavors. To join that group I am, indeed, so honored. For the President to do this has been something that I could never have anticipated.

I have been very deeply honored to serve the people of Maryland and of this Nation. To the people of Maryland, I thank you. I could never have had the opportunity to serve in the public sphere in such a way had they not honored me with their confidence and trust by voting for me. I am so thankful for the opportunity that they have given me to actually serve my State and my country.

Yes, I am the longest serving woman in the Senate. But for me, it is not how long I have served but how well I have tried to serve. To me, service is about being connected to my constituents, staying close to them, making sure they don't fall between the cracks, and looking out for their day-to-day needs—whether a Social Security check, helping a veteran or working on issues such as college affordability.

For me, service has been rooted in the values I learned in my home and in my community. I think today of my father and mother, who worked so hard so that my sisters and I would get an education. They owned a small neighborhood grocery store. Every day at 6 in the morning, my father would walk across the street from our row house home and open up the door of his grocery store and say: Good morning. Can I help you?

That is the way I was raised, and that is what I have carried with me every single day; that is: Good morning. Can I help you? But they also saw that my sisters and I had a fantastic education. I had the opportunity to go to Catholic schools, and there the sisters taught us about leadership and service. But actually they focused on the values of our faith: Love your neighbor, care for the sick, worry about the poor, always insist that neighbors should help neighbors, and it is better to light one little candle than to curse the darkness.

We were also raised to believe in the American dream. My great-grandmother came to this country from Poland. She had little money in her pocket. Women didn't even have the right to vote when she arrived. She had a big dream in her heart. If you worked hard and played by the rules, life would be better for you. She never thought, coming as she did, that her own granddaughter would one day be a U.S. Senator. But then that is only in America, where my story has been possible.

Only in America do we have this incredible right to speak our mind. I got into politics as a protester. They want-

ed to put a highway through the neighborhood in which I grew up and some other neighborhoods in the city. I organized the "Hell no, we won't go" committee and took on city hall.

Do you know what is so great about this country? In others, they put you in jail and beat you. In this country, they sent me to the city council, and I beat the political bosses.

This is an amazing country. Our Constitution, the freedoms guaranteed in it—the freedom of assembly, the freedom to speak, and most of all, the freedom to serve and to be all that you can be—has been a marvelous gift.

In a few days, I will be honored by the President of the United States, but the real honor has always been to be here. I never dreamed such an honor would come my way, nor did I seek it. I am so deeply honored to be touched by this, and I am honored to be among the people who will get this award. Among those who will be honored is the dearly beloved Shirley Chisholm, whom I served with in the House. She was always unbought and unbossed. Willie Mays will be honored. He always brought it home and knew where home plate was. Barbra Streisand, who always hit the high notes, and, of course, even Yogi Berra, who shared my love of language, are going to be honored. Young, distinguished Americans like Katherine Johnson, who was one of the first African Americans in space, and Lee Hamilton, who worked both in Congress and in the private sector to bring about world peace, will be honored. What a distinguished group of Americans, and I will be glad to stand with them.

I wish to thank President Obama for this tremendous honor. I thank the people of Maryland for this tremendous opportunity to serve, and I thank the United States of America for enabling someone like me to follow her dream. I hope, in getting this award, that I will continue to make my pledge to be of service.

I thank the Presiding Officer and 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. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will pro-

ceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of LaShann Moutique DeArcy Hall, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 30 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Hall nomination.

The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for about 6 or 7 minutes.

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

TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST FRANCE AND SYRIAN REFUGEES

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I want to express my deepest sympathies to the people of Paris and all those affected by the terrorist attacks of Islamic extremists. As we all know, hundreds of people were killed or injured in the attacks, including at least one American citizen. No one should be faced with horrific violence when attending a soccer game or concert or simply carrying out their daily lives. On behalf of Iowans, I stand with the people of France. I offer our support in recovering from and responding to those attacks.

Unfortunately, there is fear that similar attacks could soon take place on U.S. soil. There is even a video that ISIS released earlier today threatening to attack America. Moreover, if we follow the administration's announced plans to bring in thousands of new Syrian refugees, we could very well be letting in similar extremists who want to harm Americans. That is because it appears that at least one of the ISIS terrorists in Paris had recently registered as a Syrian refugee in the country of Greece. Until last Friday, he appeared to all the world to be no different from any of the other thousands of people fleeing the chaos in Syria. This could happen here too.

The No. 1 responsibility under the Constitution of our Federal Government is to protect the homeland and to secure the country against all threats. We must do all we can to prevent a terrorist style attack from happening here, but under the administration's proposed plan, we may not be able to stop such an attack. We cannot tell who among the thousands of Syrian refugees the administration wishes to resettle here are terrorists. One particularly alarming statement to this effect came from the Director of the FBI, James Comey. He was in a hearing before the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs just on October 8 of this year. Director Comey said "there are certain gaps . . . in the data available to us" in screening Syrian refugees. This data, which includes fingerprints, background and biographic information, is crucial for an adequate screening of potential refugees entering the United

States. Director Comey continued in that hearing saying, “There is risk associated with bringing anybody in from the outside, but especially from a conflict zone like that.”

Director Comey has also previously acknowledged that despite a large pool of data on Iraqi refugees, our past program for admitting refugees from Iraq inadvertently allowed into our country “a number of people who were of serious concern, including two that were charged when we found their fingerprints on improvised explosive devices from Iraq.”

Our ability to screen individuals from war-torn Syria is extremely limited by comparison. Several States’ Governors have recognized this difficulty and have accordingly moved to suspend cooperation with the administration in settling Syrian refugees in their States until those security concerns are addressed. I share such concerns for protecting our country against terrorists who have clearly infiltrated the Syrian refugee population. I recently wrote a letter to the leaders of the Senate Appropriations Committee. In that letter I asked that taxpayers’ funds be used effectively to properly and securely screen refugees entering the United States. I also requested in the letter that as part of the appropriations legislation before the committee, it require a comprehensive plan on how security will be achieved. I requested this be a condition for any funding for refugee resettlement for Syrian refugees. I said then and I emphasize now that not one dollar should be expended until stringent parameters for vetting these refugees are established.

I would also suggest to President Obama that he reconsider his plan to admit Syrian refugees until the dust settles and we get to the bottom of the Paris attacks. We need to analyze what happened. We need to figure out how we can better screen these refugees and ensure that terrorists among them are not evading proper screenings. We need a timeout before we press forward.

I stress that the United States remains an extremely generous country when it comes to refugees. This year alone we will allow 75,000 refugees fleeing persecution around the world to enter our country, but we have to set our own citizens’ security as a top priority. I call on Congress to act to ensure that this administration certifies that the most stringent security standards are in place before allowing any more of the Syrian refugees into our country. It is our responsibility to do everything we can to prevent Friday’s attacks from happening here.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I rise to urge my colleagues to vote to confirm this qualified judge, LaShann DeArcy Hall, to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

Ms. Hall is an outstanding choice to fill this position. After decades of serv-

ice in both the public sector and the private sector, Ms. Hall’s breadth of knowledge and depth of experience will guide her for any case that happens to come before her. In her current role at a major international law firm, Ms. Hall specializes in high-stakes, complex commercial litigation. During her years of public service, including her time serving as a commissioner with the New York State Joint Commission on Public Ethics, Ms. Hall has worked tirelessly to help make her community a more fair and just place.

Ms. Hall’s credentials are absolutely worthy of this position on the Federal bench, and we will be a stronger nation with more women like Ms. Hall serving as judges in our Federal court system.

Ms. Hall is a graduate of Howard University School of Law and she served in the U.S. Air Force. She is a highly accomplished lawyer, and she has devoted her entire career to various forms of public service. She is dedicated to her community, and she cares deeply about this country. LaShann DeArcy Hall would make an excellent Federal judge and would add much needed diversity to the Federal bench.

Mr. President, I urge all my colleagues to vote to confirm her.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative 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, I ask unanimous consent that all time remaining on this nomination be yielded back.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Hall 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

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

The result was announced—yeas 93, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 305 Ex.]

YEAS—93

Alexander
Ayotte

Baldwin
Barrasso

Bennet
Blumenthal

Booker
Boozman
Boxer
Brown
Burr
Cantwell
Capito
Cardin
Carper
Casey
Cassidy
Coats
Cochran
Collins
Coons
Corker
Cornyn
Crapo
Daines
Donnelly
Durbin
Enzi
Ernst
Feinstein
Fischer
Flake
Franken
Gardner
Gillibrand

Grassley
Hatch
Heinrich
Heitkamp
Heller
Hirono
Hoeven
Inhofe
Isakson
Johnson
Kaine
King
Kirk
Klobuchar
Lankford
Leahy
Lee
Manchin
Markey
McCain
McCaskill
McConnell
Menendez
Merkley
Mikulski
Moran
Murkowski
Murphy
Murray

Nelson
Paul
Peters
Portman
Reed
Reid
Risch
Roberts
Rounds
Rubio
Sasse
Schatz
Schumer
Scott
Sessions
Shaheen
Shelby
Stabenow
Sullivan
Tester
Thune
Tillis
Toomey
Udall
Warner
Warren
Whitehouse
Wicker
Wyden

NAYS—1

Perdue

NOT VOTING—6

Blunt
Cotton
Cruz

Graham
Sanders
Vitter

The nomination was confirmed.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

The Senator from Oklahoma.

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

MASTER SERGEANT JOSHUA L. WHEELER

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, the Presiding Officer, Senator LANKFORD, and I want to recognize and pay tribute to Army MSG Joshua Wheeler. Joshua was born in Roland, OK. He was deployed to Kirkuk Province, Iraq, in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. I didn’t remember him at the time, but I was there during that time. He was deployed to Kirkuk to support Operation Inherent Resolve. That was his 14th deployment in combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Joshua’s unit, along with Iraqi and Kurdish forces, raided a compound near the city of Kirkuk, freeing 70 prisoners from captivity. Josh died of injuries sustained in that firefight. He would have turned 40 this month.

Josh attended and graduated from Muldrow High School in 1994, and a

classmate of his, Ms. Tra Moreland, said this about Josh and his character:

If you would have asked me 20 years ago, would he be the man—the kind of man to do this, to give his life for everyone else? I'd say most definitely! I wish everybody could have known him!

Josh enlisted in the Army straight out of high school. During his military career, he served in the 24th Infantry Regiment, 75th Ranger Regiment, and from 2004 until the events that bring us here today, he was assigned to the U.S. Army Special Operations Command, where he served with the Delta Force.

I think we all understand what the Delta Force is all about. It is a unit of the elite, the very best of the best. That was Josh—the best of the best. Josh was the epitome of a selfless and patriotic soldier.

Mr. Lance Hunter, Sergeant Wheeler's friend of 30 years, said that Josh was the kind of person who would stop and help a stranger change a tire on the side of the road and always dedicated himself to challenges.

When he enlisted, I knew he would go as far as he could go. He was made to be a soldier.

A soldier he was. During his career, Master Sergeant Wheeler had earned 11 Bronze Stars, including 4 with Valor Device, and countless other medals. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart for his actions during the raid on the ISIS prison. He is a true American hero.

Secretary of Defense Ash Carter expressed how selfless Sergeant Wheeler's actions were, stating that "they weren't part of the original rescue mission plan, but were critical to the mission's success." In other words, he did something he didn't have to do. Still, the Secretary is one of thousands who know what a hero Josh really is.

I was honored to hear that his hometown honored him by engraving his name in a stone monument and releasing hundreds of balloons in his memory. On top of being a highly decorated soldier, he was a consummate family man and father of four. Joshua's grandfather, Mr. Jack Shamblyn of Roland, OK, said his grandson loved fishing and hunting and was a family man and was always taking care of everyone else, including his four half sisters.

His brother Zack said:

He was a soldier, but I didn't realize he had all of these accomplishments, all these achievements—it just blows my mind. He's an American hero, he just wanted to take care of people.

Ms. April Isa, a classmate of Josh's and an English teacher now at the old high school said:

He was always funny, even mischievous, but always the guy who seemed like he had your back. Most of our class was cliques, but he wasn't with just one group. He was friends with everyone.

Josh lived a life for his family and friends. I had occasion to talk to Ashley, and I found out that he was a real Jesus guy. He loved everyone, and he knew what was going to happen to him,

and we know where he is today. He will be remembered for his commitment to and belief in the greatness of our Nation, and his memory and legacy will continue forever in the love of his wife Ashley and his four sons, Zachariah, Matthew, Joshua Junior, and the youngest, David, just 3 months old.

The fight that took Josh's life is tragic. But make no mistake; his sacrifice made a difference and will continue to make a difference, not just in Iraq but in the security of our great Nation. We are safe in our country, and it is secure because of Josh and our service men and women. We must continue our unwavering support of them.

I extend our deepest gratitude and condolences to Josh's family. Senator LANKFORD and I are honored to pay tribute to this true American hero who volunteered to go into the fight and to make the ultimate sacrifice of his life for our freedom. It is my sincere hope that his family takes solace in knowing that their husband, father, brother, grandson, and friend is a true American hero and will not be forgotten. We say God bless you, Josh. We will see you again.

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

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

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I come to the floor of the Senate today to talk about the sacrifice of one of Oklahoma's own, MSG Joshua Wheeler of Roland, OK, Sequoyah County, America. The current Presiding Officer today is Senator INHOFE, and the two of us together recognize and celebrate the life of someone who laid down his life for the Nation.

Roland and Muldrow are proud towns in eastern Oklahoma. It is Cherokee country, where families take care of other families and small-town American patriotism still thrives. It is the land of tall trees and very strong churches.

Josh was killed in action on October 22 while liberating captives held by ISIL in northern Iraq. Josh was part of a team assisting Kurdish commandos to rescue 70 hostages who were about to be executed by Islamic State militants. There was aerial reconnaissance that had shown a newly dug mass grave at the prison where these 70 prisoners were being held.

When the Kurdish attack on the prison where the hostages were being held stalled, Master Sergeant Wheeler responded. He could not watch the Kurdish forces face the attack without help. He would not allow those men inside the facility to face execution when he could help them escape. Master Sergeant Wheeler breached the wall. He

engaged the enemy. The full force of the attack came directly at him, and he saved the day and six dozen men.

You need to know that Master Sergeant Wheeler was the best of the best, the most highly trained warrior in the entire Department of Defense. Josh deployed three times as a Ranger in support of combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, then Master Sergeant Wheeler was assigned to the U.S. Army Special Operations Command in 2004 and was deployed 11 additional times in support of combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Master Sergeant Wheeler was highly decorated. We can see this from his uniform. Let me tell you a little bit about his awards. They included four Bronze Star Medals with Valor Device; seven Bronze Star Medals; the Defense Meritorious Service Medal; the Meritorious Service Medal; the Air Medal; the Joint Service Commendation Medal with Valor Device; the Joint Service Commendation Medal; seven Army Commendation Medals; the Joint Service Achievement Medal; eight Army Achievement Medals; the Good Conduct Medal, sixth award; the National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Service Star; the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with three Bronze Service Stars; the Iraq Campaign Medal with six Bronze Service Stars; the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, third award; the Army Service Ribbon; the Presidential Unit Citation; the Valorous Unit Award, second award; the Ranger Tab; the Combat Infantryman Badge; the Expert Infantryman Badge; the Master Parachutist Badge; three Overseas Service Bars; and finally, posthumously, the Purple Heart.

He did everything his country asked him to do and more. Master Sergeant Wheeler was the first American serviceman killed in combat in Iraq since 2011. Americans, Kurds, and Iraqis alike owe Master Sergeant Wheeler and his family our deepest gratitude and respect for a life of selfless service. John 15:13 tells us that no greater love is this, than one who lays down his life for his friends. Josh did exactly that. Master Sergeant Wheeler's sacrifice exemplifies the highest virtue in defense of his family, friends, and Nation.

Speaking of his friends, they called him a cutup. He was someone who made everyone laugh. He was a friend to everyone.

I spoke to his wife Ashley last week, and she recounted his faith, toughness, and passion for his boys—all four of them. He was able to come home a few months ago for the birth of his fourth son. It was a peaceful and joyous respite from the brutal realities of war that Josh faced for years.

Josh spent his life defending the weak and standing up for those who needed help. He spent much of his childhood caring for his siblings. He valued life, freedom, and duty.

In contrast to Master Sergeant Wheeler's heroism and selflessness, let me remind you whom he was fighting against. In the days following the Paris attack, we understand that the barbarians of ISIL had no problem randomly killing people at a restaurant, soccer stadium, or concert. They kill for intimidation and pleasure. They do not even value their own lives, much less the lives of the people around them. The Islamic State has committed some of the most horrific acts of death the modern world has ever seen. Their fight is against all modern society, and their goal is to return the world to a medieval state ruled by fear. They have abducted girls and women, called them subhuman for practicing the wrong religion according to them, and sold them as sex slaves. In the world of ISIL, women can't get an education, drive a car, or even have their own rights. They kill and torture anyone who doesn't agree with them. Their reach extends to our own citizens. No one can forget the horrific deaths of James Foley, Stephen Sotloff, and Kayla Mueller, a 26-year-old woman who wanted to do good for the people of Syria but met pure evil when she got there.

Recently, FBI Director James Comey spoke about ISIL's attempts to inspire Americans to turn on each other with blind brutality. Go out and kill, they say. It doesn't matter who, just act. Good men stand up to such evil. They don't allow it to grow and multiply.

We honor Master Sergeant Wheeler's sacrifice and tenacious commitment to confront evil. We humbly thank his family for the sacrifice they made so that we may all live in a more peaceful world. Our Nation cannot say thank you loud enough or long enough to his family.

When I spoke to Ashley, Josh's wife, she recounted when the doorbell rang early that morning. It didn't even cross her mind that it was about Josh. He was so tough and so dedicated. Who would have ever thought he would be gone? The painful and long process of grieving over a lost hero has just begun. Master Sergeant Wheeler was killed in action defending our freedom on October 22. His final service will be this week—just a few days before his birthday. The long days of Thanksgiving and Christmas are still ahead.

Please join me in praying for the family of Master Sergeant Wheeler as our Nation grieves the loss of a husband, father, grandson, and friend to those who knew him. He is a hero to the Nation and the many lives he saved a month ago this week. May God bless Josh's family. May his boys grow up to be men who remember their dad's love for them and our Nation.

With that, I yield back.

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. LANKFORD assumed the Chair.)

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

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

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 138, H.R. 2577.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 138, H.R. 2577, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 138, H.R. 2577, an act making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Richard C. Shelby, Richard Burr, Daniel Coats, Ben Sasse, Thom Tillis, John Hoeven, Roger F. Wicker, Chuck Grassley, Susan M. Collins, Thad Cochran, James Lankford, Lamar Alexander, Roy Blunt, Steve Daines.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII be waived with respect to the cloture vote.

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

TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST FRANCE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I want to express what I know each of my colleagues feels today. We, the 100 men and women of the U.S. Senate, send our sincere condolences to the people of France. From across the Atlantic, Americans send condolences to the victims, to the families, and to the first responders.

We understand the pain and the loss that accompany a terrorist attack. Some feel it in the most personal way. Some never come home. But everyone shares in the loss. In our case, many shared in the response and the recovery as well.

In a dark hour we were reminded of the things that bound us together. I hope you will feel something similar take hold in your terrible hour as well.

We have already seen rays of light begin to shine through the darkness. We saw it even last Friday. Then, as Paris reeled, a soft hum emanated from a tunnel. "March," came the echo in French. "March on." Enemies in history and rivals on the soccer pitch had united around a common humanity. Dazed, disoriented but alive, French and German fans marched through the tunnels together. Some put defiance to verse. "Against us," they sang, "tyranny has unfurled its bloody banner." And indeed, that night it had. A song sung so many times before came alive with new meaning that horrible night. Many knew it as the French national anthem, but that night it became an aria for their sorrow and an ode to their fraternity. We heard it here, from an ocean away.

We add our voices to the harmony now. We know that the attacks were not just directed at the victims we mourn today but also at modernity and the free world.

President Obama has called ISIL the face of evil. It clearly presents a challenge to NATO, to our moderate Sunni allies, and to the United States. It has also shown that it can attack innocent victims in the West, too—right where they live. These terrorists have declared their intention to do so again and again.

We know that trying to contain ISIL's conventional advance as an operational concept has proven insufficient in the face of determined terrorist attacks, but we also know something else. With resolve and determination, ISIL can be defeated. It won't be easy. It won't come quickly or without cost, but we also have no other option.

I look forward to engaging with President Obama to determine his strategy and the tools that will be necessary to achieve it. We are looking forward to hearing the President's proposed strategy when Senators are briefed by the White House later this week. Whatever he does, though, I would encourage him to work cooperatively with both parties on the way forward. This is a challenge that is going to require all of our efforts to confront, and it is a discussion that will be ongoing.

But today is a time to remember and to reflect. We have the people of France in our thoughts today. That is true here in the Senate, and it is certainly true out across our country.

MORNING BUSINESS

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today we will vote on the nomination of LaShann Hall to be a Federal district judge in the Eastern District of New York. She was nominated over a year

ago, and her nomination was voted out of the Judiciary Committee by unanimous voice vote more than 5 months ago. Ms. Hall is an outstanding African-American attorney who will fill a judicial emergency vacancy. There is no reason Senate Republicans should have delayed her confirmation for this long.

The Senate this week should also vote on the next nominee on the calendar, who was nominated on the same day over a year ago as Ms. Hall. Judge Luis Felipe Restrepo will be the first ever Hispanic judge from Pennsylvania on the third circuit. Judge Restrepo has strong bipartisan support from his home State Senators, Senator TOOMEY and Senator CASEY, and there is an urgent need to fill the emergency vacancy on the third circuit to which he has been nominated. I have heard no objection to his nomination, and Senator TOOMEY has said he not only strongly supports Judge Restrepo's confirmation, but he also recommended him to the President. I hope the majority leader will finally schedule his vote this week.

In the 11 months that the Senate has been under Republican control this year, the Senate has only voted to confirm nine judges. This obstruction has resulted in needless delays for hard-working Americans who seek justice in our Federal courts. Currently pending on the Senate floor are nominees who would fill judicial emergency vacancies in Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Minnesota, New Jersey, Iowa, New York, and California. Senate Republicans have refused to alleviate the urgent needs in those States. It does not have to be this way. When Senate Democrats were in the majority during the last 2 years of the Bush Presidency, we had already confirmed 36 judges by this same time. We made sure that we fulfilled our constitutional duty to provide advice and consent to ensure that the American people had a fully functioning Federal judiciary.

Senate Republicans' obstruction has caused judicial vacancies to pile up across the country. Since Senate Republicans took over the majority at the beginning of the year, judicial vacancies have increased by more than 50 percent. The number of "judicial emergency" vacancies since Senate Republicans took the majority has risen by a stunning 158 percent. The American people deserve better.

We should follow well-established Senate precedent by confirming all consensus nominees before the end of the year. Each of the judicial nominees pending on the Executive Calendar was reported out of the Judiciary Committee by unanimous voice vote. And each has the backing of their home State Senators, including Republican Senators. In fact, the next nominee after Ms. Hall and Judge Restrepo is Travis McDonough who has been nominated to fill a judicial vacancy on the Eastern District of Tennessee. Next week will mark the 1-year anniversary

since Mr. McDonough was nominated, but it appears there is no relief in sight as his nomination continues to be held up by Senate Republicans, despite the strong support he has from his home State Senators, Senator ALEXANDER and Senator CORKER. I see no reason why he and the rest of the nominees pending should not be confirmed before we recess at the end of the year. As the New York Times put it in an editorial last Friday urging confirmation votes on all pending judicial nominees, "With each day that passes without a vote on Judge Restrepo and other nominees, Republicans undermine the justice system, and the biggest victims are ordinary Americans who cannot count on fully functioning courts." I ask unanimous consent that this editorial be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

Shortly we will begin voting on LaShann Hall to fill a judicial emergency vacancy in the Federal District Court for the Eastern District of New York. She is currently a partner at the law firm of Morrison & Foerster, LLP, in New York, where she has practiced since 2010. She was previously in private practice at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP and at Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP. She has the support of her two home State Senators, Senator SCHUMER and Senator GILLIBRAND. She was voted out of the Judiciary Committee by unanimous voice vote on June 4, 2015. I urge my fellow Senators to support her confirmation.

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

[From the New York Times, Nov. 13, 2015]

CONFIRM PRESIDENT OBAMA'S JUDGES
(By the Editorial Board)

On Nov. 12, 2014, President Obama nominated Luis Felipe Restrepo to a judgeship on the federal Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Judge Restrepo, who already sits on the United States District Court in Philadelphia, seemed to secure the support of both Pennsylvania senators—Bob Casey, a Democrat, and Pat Toomey, a Republican.

But that does not mean that Judge Restrepo, whom Mr. Toomey called "a very well-qualified candidate" who would "make a superb addition" to the appeals court, will actually get through the confirmation roadblock led by Senate Republicans. Mr. Toomey, despite his professed support, is responsible for a big part of it, refusing for six months to sign off on the nomination by exploiting a pointless tradition that allows home-state senators to block a nomination with no explanation needed. He claimed that he was waiting for a background check, even though Judge Restrepo passed a check two years ago for his current job. The Senate Judiciary Committee approved Judge Restrepo for the appeals court seat in July. There has been no explanation for the holdup since then.

As a Hispanic and a former public defender, Judge Restrepo would bring a needed measure of ethnic and professional diversity to the court. But he is just one of many judicial nominees awaiting action. Thirteen have not received a hearing by the Judiciary Committee, and 16 others, including Judge Restrepo, have been approved by the committee, all unanimously, but are still waiting for a full vote on the Senate floor.

Since Republicans took over in January, the Senate has confirmed only nine of President Obama's nominees, the slowest pace in more than half a century. Meanwhile, the seat Judge Restrepo would fill is one of 30 long-vacant federal judgeships the court system deems "judicial emergencies," meaning they have a backlog of hundreds of cases.

Republicans say that Mr. Obama has seen more of his judicial nominees confirmed than President George W. Bush had by this time in his tenure in 2007. But that is mainly because Senate Democrats in 2013 stopped Republicans from repeatedly using the filibuster to block qualified nominees. After that, the Democratic-led Senate confirmed 96 of Mr. Obama's picks. The more relevant fact is there are 67 judicial vacancies today, far more than the number of vacancies Mr. Bush faced in 2007.

The larger problem here, of course, is that Republicans are blocking votes on highly qualified and noncontroversial nominees to vent their anger with the president, who infuriated them with his now-stalled immigration action, among other things.

Judges are not the only casualties of this interbranch crossfire. Attorney General Loretta Lynch, another unquestionably qualified candidate, waited almost six months before finally getting a vote.

Senate Democrats should make these inexcusable delays a national issue. Mr. Obama, meanwhile, could start selecting judges himself in states like Texas, Alabama, Wisconsin and Indiana, where senators refuse to give him any names at all.

With each day that passes without a vote on Judge Restrepo and other nominees, Republicans undermine the justice system, and the biggest victims are ordinary Americans who cannot count on fully functioning courts.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL REVIEW

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I wish to honor and congratulate National Review for 60 years of valuable contributions to American political discourse.

When a 29-year-old William F. Buckley, Jr., published National Review's first edition on November 19, 1955, it marked not just the birth of a magazine, but also the birth of the modern conservative movement. Under 45 years of Mr. Buckley's leadership, National Review served as the standard bearer of conservative thought in America, where readers could expect to find leading thinkers such as Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher, and Milton Friedman to name a few. It influenced generations of conservatives, including this conservative, with its frequently humorous and always intelligent writing, and it consistently published valuable commentaries on public events and figures, foreign and domestic affairs, culture, politics, and the economy.

During Mr. Buckley's tenure, National Review did more than just observe and comment on the course of human events; it helped shape them. It played a central role in the "Reagan Revolution." Its steadfast defense of liberty, free markets, and personal responsibility provided much of the intellectual underpinnings of America's triumph over communist tyranny in Europe and around the world.

Mr. Buckley's successors have ably carried on this proud tradition at National Review. It remains tremendously influential. With over 150,000 subscribers, it is the most read opinion magazine in America. Millions more visit National Review Online every month.

More importantly, Mr. Buckley's successors have carried on as champions of the conservative movement. Every 2 weeks National Review arrives on my desk and serves as a reminder that conservative thought is alive and well in America.

Over the past 60 years, National Review has lived up to its founding statement so eloquently expressed by Mr. Buckley. To paraphrase, National Review continues to stand athwart history, yelling "stop," when no other is inclined to do so, or to have much patience with those who so urge it.

Congratulations to all those who have made National Review a success over these last 60 years. Your contributions to American political discourse will serve as an inspiration and as a challenge to future generations of conservative thinkers.

DISCHARGE PETITION—S.J. RES. 23

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 23, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from New, Modified, and Reconstructed Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units," and further, that the resolution be placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Jim Inhofe, Roy Blunt, Ron Johnson, Lamar Alexander, Michael B. Enzi, Shelley Moore Capito, Mike Lee, Orrin Hatch, Deb Fischer, Joe Manchin, John Cornyn, Chuck Grassley, Pat Roberts, Dan Coats, John Barrasso, Richard Burr, John Thune, Lisa Murkowski, Tom Cotton, Dan Sullivan, Steve Daines, Rob Portman, David Perdue, Pat Toomey, Jeff Sessions, Jerry Moran, John Boozman, James E. Risch, Richard Shelby, John Hoeven.

DISCHARGE PETITION—S.J. RES. 24

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 24, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Carbon Pollution Emission Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units," and further, that the resolution be placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Shelley Moore Capito, Joni K. Ernst, Roger Wicker, John Barrasso, David Perdue, Mike Crapo, Deb Fischer,

James Lankford, John Thune, Heidi Heitkamp, Joe Manchin, James Inhofe, Tim Scott, Dan Sullivan, Mike Rounds, Mitch McConnell, Jeff Flake, Orrin Hatch, Mike Lee, Thom Tillis, John Cornyn, Lamar Alexander, Jeff Sessions, Roy Blunt, Pat Toomey, Steve Daines, Jerry Moran, Richard Shelby, John Hoeven, Johnny Isakson.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO IVAN BELL WOODFORD

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today, I wish to congratulate Ivan Bell Woodford on being selected to serve as grand marshal for the city of Reno's Veterans Day Parade. As Nevada's oldest living World War II veteran, there is no doubt Mr. Woodford deserves this honor. It gives me great pleasure to recognize his years of service to both the United States of America and our great State.

Mr. Woodford grew up at Lake Elsinore, working on the family ranch. He later enlisted in the United States Navy in 1942 as a Seabee. Throughout World War II, he served at Pearl Harbor and Midway Island, operating heavy equipment and cranes to clear debris from the destruction of the war. His unit was later stationed in the Philippines.

In 1946, Mr. Woodford established his residency in Reno, working for local excavating companies as a heavy machinery operator. He worked for more than 30 years in this industry, helping complete various projects throughout Reno and Lake Tahoe. He aided in laying the foundation of housing pads across Reno, leveling the ground for construction projects near Lake Tahoe, dredging what is now Virginia Lake, and cleaning irrigation ditches to develop Spanish Springs Valley. He also worked heavy machinery during the development of Interstate 80 and many other roads throughout Washoe Valley, leaving his mark in northern Nevada for generations to come. No doubt, he witnessed and contributed to some of the largest growth and expansion throughout the area.

His many contributions to making our State the best it can be, as well as his service to this country, demonstrates his generous character. His actions represent only the greatest of Nevada's values and place him among the outstanding men and women who have valiantly defended our nation. Our State is fortunate to have someone like Mr. Woodford to serve as a role model.

As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I recognize that Congress has a responsibility not only to honor the brave individuals who serve our Nation, but also to ensure they are cared for when they return home. I remain committed to upholding this promise for veterans, like Mr. Woodford, in Nevada and throughout the Nation.

Mr. Woodford has demonstrated professionalism, commitment to excellence, and dedication to the highest standards of the United States Navy. His work throughout Nevada is invaluable. I am both humbled and honored by his service and am proud to call him a fellow Nevadan. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Woodford for all of his accomplishments, as well as his participation in the city of Reno's Veterans Day Parade.●

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN BURTON

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Brian Burton, president and chief executive officer of Three Square, for his tireless efforts in enhancing the lives of many across southern Nevada. Mr. Burton brings more than 20 years of nonprofit experience to Three Square, helping feed thousands of southern Nevadans who would otherwise go hungry. Mr. Burton has contributed greatly to his community by working to make Three Square the best it can be.

Largely due to Mr. Burton's many years of hard work, Three Square is able to offer a variety of programs to help those who would normally go without a wholesome meal. The organization works to source food, raise money, and grow its volunteer base to provide food to outside partners that distribute meals directly to those in need. Three Square services Clark, Nye, Lincoln, and Esmeralda Counties, feeding over 300,000 Nevadans. Our State is fortunate to have someone such as Mr. Burton running this organization, which is critical to many across southern Nevada.

Previously, Mr. Burton served as executive director for Wilkinson Center in Dallas, TX, a nonprofit organization serving low-income families with food assistance, education, and case management. In his current position, Mr. Burton works to further develop and grow the organization, increase program sustainability and community engagement, diversify and increase fundraising, and offer public policy work. His contributions to this incredible organization are immense, and his efforts have not gone unnoticed.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Mr. Burton for his noble contributions to communities across southern Nevada and to the many individuals who have benefited from his work. He is a shining example of someone who strives for the betterment of his community and displays true selflessness in his work. I am thankful to have Mr. Burton serving as an ally to Nevadans in need.

Today I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in recognizing Mr. Burton and his work for Three Square, a program whose mission is both honorable and necessary. I wish Mr. Burton the best of luck in all of his future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO BETTY VANDIVER

• Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, it is an honor for me to pay tribute today to Betty Russell Vandiver, the former first lady of the State of Georgia from 1959 to 1963.

Sybil Elizabeth "Betty" Russell Vandiver is the wonderful wife of the late Georgia Governor, Earnest Vandiver. She also is the niece of Richard B. Russell, Jr., the former Georgia Senator and Governor after whom one of our U.S. Senate office buildings was named and where my office in Washington, DC, is located. But Betty Vandiver is more than that.

At the time, Mrs. Vandiver became first lady in 1959, Central State Hospital in Milledgeville, GA, served as the State's only State hospital for the mentally ill and developmentally disabled. In the late 1950s, Central State Hospital was home to more than 12,000 patients, many of whom had been abandoned by their families at an early age.

After visiting the hospital, Mrs. Vandiver became concerned about these patients, and she determined that she would devote much of her time and energy as first lady to raising public awareness of the needs of Georgia's mentally ill and developmentally disabled.

One of Mrs. Vandiver's initiatives included working with the Georgia Municipal Association to create a statewide Christmas gift collection drive known as the Mayors' Motorcade. This special event was established in 1959 and expanded years later to support the inhabitants of the State's regional hospitals. Since then, caring Georgians support the Mayors' Motorcade each year by donating gifts to cities participating in the program.

Through Mrs. Vandiver's efforts, thousands and thousands of patients residing at Georgia's State hospitals have received Christmas gifts and visits from city officials at special motorcade events.

On December 1, 2015, we will celebrate Betty Vandiver Day in Georgia. Today it is my pleasure to honor Mrs. Vandiver for having the vision to create the Mayors' Motorcade program as a way of providing not only gifts, but also critical public awareness about the needs of Georgia's mentally ill and developmentally disabled.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOY SCOUT TROOP 283

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I celebrate the 100th anniversary of Boy Scout Troop 283 of Wayzata, MN, which occurred on November 15, 2015. Troop 283 is the oldest continually chartered troop in the State and has counted thousands of Scouts as its members since its inception.

The development of character, physical fitness, and civic engagement have always been central tenants of the Boy Scouts. The Scouts of Troop 283 epitomize these values and continue to learn

the skills necessary to be compassionate, tolerant, and dynamic leaders. In fact, to date, 151 of Troop 283's Scouts have earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank attainable within the Boy Scouts. Each aspiring Eagle Scout must complete a demanding Eagle project that showcases their ability and willingness to serve their community. These Eagle projects, along with a myriad of other service projects completed by the Scouts of Troop 283, have demonstrated their positive impact to Wayzata and the surrounding community. I am confident that Troop 283 will continue to be a positive influence well into the future.

I recognize Troop 283 for its 100 years of service to Wayzata and the great State of Minnesota. To the Scouts of Troop 283 and the family and friends that support them, thank you and congratulations on your 100th anniversary.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 6:53 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the resolution (H. Con. Res. 90) directing the Secretary of the Senate to make a technical correction in the enrollment of S. 1356.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolutions were discharged by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 23. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from New, Modified, and Reconstructed Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units".

S.J. Res. 24. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Carbon Pollution Emission Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units".

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. HATCH (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. BURR, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 2282. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program and the National Cord Blood Inventory, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. RISCH):

S. 2283. A bill to ensure that small business providers of broadband Internet access service can devote resources to broadband deployment rather than compliance with cumbersome regulatory requirements; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COATS, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 313. A resolution condemning the terrorist attacks in Paris and offering thoughts and prayers for the victims, condolences to their families, resolve to support the people of France, and the pledge to defend democracy and stand in solidarity with the country of France and all our allies in the face of this horrific attack on freedom and liberty; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 108

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S.

108, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve access for students to Federal grants and loans to help pay for postsecondary, graduate, and professional educational opportunities, and for other purposes.

S. 553

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 553, a bill to marshal resources to undertake a concerted, transformative effort that seeks to bring an end to modern slavery, and for other purposes.

S. 627

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 627, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to revoke bonuses paid to employees involved in electronic wait list manipulations, and for other purposes.

S. 637

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 637, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 743

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 743, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize the service in the reserve components of the Armed Forces of certain persons by honoring them with status as veterans under law, and for other purposes.

S. 746

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 746, a bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission to Accelerate the End of Breast Cancer.

S. 849

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 849, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for systematic data collection and analysis and epidemiological research regarding Multiple Sclerosis (MS), Parkinson's disease, and other neurological diseases.

S. 901

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 901, a bill to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a national center for research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the Armed Forces that are related to that exposure, to establish an advisory board on such health conditions, and for other purposes.

S. 1555

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr.

MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1555, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Filipino veterans of World War II, in recognition of the dedicated service of the veterans during World War II.

S. 1567

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 1567, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for a review of the characterization or terms of discharge from the Armed Forces of individuals with mental health disorders alleged to affect terms of discharge.

S. 1789

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1789, a bill to improve defense cooperation between the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

S. 1856

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1856, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for suspension and removal of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs for performance or misconduct that is a threat to public health or safety and to improve accountability of employees of the Department, and for other purposes.

S. 1874

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1874, a bill to provide protections for workers with respect to their right to select or refrain from selecting representation by a labor organization.

S. 1982

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1982, a bill to authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund the Wall of Remembrance.

S. 1996

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1996, a bill to streamline the employer reporting process and strengthen the eligibility verification process for the premium assistance tax credit and cost-sharing subsidy.

S. 2042

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2042, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to strengthen protections for employees wishing to advocate for improved wages, hours, or other terms or conditions of employment and to provide for stronger remedies for interference with these rights, and for other purposes.

S. 2045

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2045, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage.

S. 2152

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2152, a bill to establish a comprehensive United States Government policy to encourage the efforts of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to develop an appropriate mix of power solutions, including renewable energy, for more broadly distributed electricity access in order to support poverty reduction, promote development outcomes, and drive economic growth, and for other purposes.

S. 2163

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2163, a bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to require that broadband conduits be installed as a part of certain highway construction projects, and for other purposes.

S. 2232

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) were added as cosponsors of S. 2232, a bill to require a full audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal reserve banks by the Comptroller General of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2235

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2235, a bill to repeal debt collection amendments made by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015.

S. 2248

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2248, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to coordinate Federal congenital heart disease research efforts and to improve public education and awareness of congenital heart disease, and for other purposes.

S. 2251

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2251, a bill to provide for a supplementary payment to Social Security beneficiaries, supplemental security income beneficiaries, and recipients of veterans benefits, and for other purposes.

S. 2252

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr.

MERKLEY) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2252, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the Secretary of the Treasury to issue prospective guidance clarifying the employment status of individuals for purposes of employment taxes and to prevent retroactive assessments with respect to such clarifications.

S. 2266

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2266, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to reform and reduce fraud and abuse in certain visa programs for aliens working temporarily in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 282

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 282, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of American Diabetes Month.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. BURR, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 2282. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program and the National Cord Blood Inventory, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act of 2015. I am glad to have Senators REED, BURR, and FRANKEN joining me as sponsors of this bipartisan bill that will reauthorize critical, innovative, and life-saving programs.

We have been working on this legislation throughout the year and have met with stakeholders in blood cell transplantation to receive their input. We also included members of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee who are deeply committed to passing this legislation.

In drafting this legislation, we also collaborated with our counterparts in the House of Representatives. I am grateful for the leadership of Congressman CHRIS SMITH and Congresswoman DORIS MATSUI, who did so much to get this legislation through the House. I commend my colleagues and their staffs for their hard work.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide some history and background that will explain why this reauthorization bill is so important. This legislation will reauthorize for another five years both the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program and the National Cord Blood Inventory, which are administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration. These vital programs provide access to life-

saving treatments for serious conditions and disease.

Bone marrow contains blood-forming stem cells that develop into the three blood cell types that keep the body healthy. The body uses those red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets as building blocks for blood, tissue, and organs. These blood cells die naturally, and the body must continuously make new ones. Serious health problems can develop in people whose bone marrow cannot make enough new blood cells to replace the cells that die.

Cord blood is a newborn baby's blood that remains in the placenta or after birth. This blood can be collected after delivery at no risk to the mother and baby. Like bone marrow, cord blood is also rich with stem cells, and doctors can use it as an alternative to bone marrow transplant. In fact, research in the mid-1980s highlighted the promise of cord blood, demonstrating that it is more highly enriched with blood-forming stem cells than bone marrow.

Cord blood transplantation has been used successfully to treat leukemia, lymphoma, immunodeficiency diseases, sickle cell anemia, and certain metabolic diseases. In addition to treating cancer and other blood diseases, researchers are currently testing stem cells for a host of disorders, including autoimmune and genetic disorders.

Cord blood research is also showing potential for use in the innovative fields of cellular therapy and regenerative medicine. Vaccines derived from cord blood to use against viruses and certain types of cancers are currently in early trials. Research has also indicated that cord blood could be used to treat conditions for which few treatments are available, such as stroke, cerebral palsy, hearing loss, autism, and traumatic brain injury.

Dr. Joanne Kurtzberg of the Carolinas Blood Bank is one of the world's leading stem cell researchers at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. At the time of that groundbreaking scientific research in the 1980s, Dr. Kurtzberg was caring for a 5 year old boy named Matthew who had a rare, inherited blood disorder called Fanconi anemia—a disease that leads to bone marrow failure. In light of the new scientific findings, doctors planned a cord blood transplant for Matthew at a hospital in Paris, France, using fully matched cord blood that had been collected during the birth of his newly born baby sister. Matthew's transplant in 1988 was a success, laying the groundwork for cord blood transplantation.

Matthew is now in his 30s. He is married, working, and living a healthy and productive life. He is living proof that cord blood contains stem cells that can replenish the bone marrow and immune system throughout a patient's life.

In 1993, with the assistance of Dr. Pablo Rubenstein of the New York Blood Center, Dr. Kurtzberg performed the world's first unrelated donor cord blood transplant at Duke University.

Over the following years, these amazing research doctors discovered more about the use of cord blood transplantation in patients who cannot find a fully matched donor.

Dr. Kurtzberg is also the president of the Cord Blood Association, CBA. I am thankful for Dr. Kurtzberg and the CBA's support in helping us develop meaningful legislation that will help cord blood banks do their jobs. I also owe gratitude for the input and guidance on this reauthorization bill that my staff and I received from Mike Boo and Dr. Jeffrey Chell with the National Marrow Donor Program, NMDP.

I am proud to have a long history of working on this issue. In early 2003, I met with Joanne Kurtzberg, Pablo Rubenstein, and Phil Coelho of Thermogenesis Corporation to discuss umbilical cord blood therapies as a promising alternative to bone marrow transplantation and how the Federal Government could help to increase collection efforts.

That night, I called Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson to talk to him about this new science, and he agreed to meet with Joanne, Pablo, and Phil the very next day. Staff from the Health Resources and Services Administration, the Food and Drug Administration, and the National Institutes of Health joined us for that discussion. Secretary Thompson stressed that cord blood banks would need to be managed through HRSA and promised to support my legislation.

In October 2003, I introduced a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a National Cord Blood Stem Cell Bank Network to prepare, store, and distribute human umbilical cord blood stems cells for the treatment of patients and to support peer-reviewed research using those cells. That bill, the Cord Blood Stem Cell Act of 2003, S. 1717, gained strong bipartisan support over the last few months of the 108th Congress.

Although it did not pass the Senate, my 2003 bill helped to generate more interest in and support for blood stem cell transplantation. I kept working on legislation to help increase access to these life-saving transplants in the following Congress. In April 2005, the Institute of Medicine, IOM, issued recommendations to create a national cord blood network. Those of us in Congress who had been working on cord blood and bone marrow realized that combining our bipartisan, bicameral efforts would benefit patients by increasing treatment options and encouraging future research. We reviewed the IOM report and incorporated those important recommendations into one comprehensive bill.

That legislation, the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005, P.L. 109-129, that was signed into law on December 20, 2005, created the National Cord Blood Inventory and established an inventory goal of at least 150,000 new and diverse cord blood stem cell units.

The 2005 law also combined the NCBI with the bone marrow donor program that had been created in 1986 by the late Congressman Bill Young to create a single point of access for blood stem cell transplants and research. This single point of access allows physicians the ability to search for any potential adult volunteer bone marrow donor or umbilical cord blood unit anywhere across the globe.

Finally, our 2005 law also named the program the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program, in honor of Bill's tireless efforts to promote bone marrow donation and transplantation.

Five years later, I was the lead sponsor of the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act of 2010, P.L. 111-264, which was signed into law on October 8, 2010, and reauthorized the Program and the NCBI for another 5 years. The 2010 law also placed new emphasis on exploring innovations in cord blood collection and increasing the number of collection sites across the nation.

Great progress has been made toward achieving the NCBI's goal of at least 150,000 diverse cord blood units; however, data suggest that the number of available cord blood units in the United States is still insufficient to meet the estimated need for unrelated transplant, which has increased by 25 percent since 2005. The number of transplants for patients in minority populations has increased from 253 in 2000 to 990 in 2014. Much of this increase can be attributed to the increased potential for bone marrow or cord blood transplant. This is exciting, promising science.

There are still challenges to the success of bone marrow and cord blood transplantation. Not all cord blood units contain enough cells to transplant into all patients. In many cases, more than one unit is preferred or necessary for larger children or adults. New science indicates the possibility that using larger, higher quality cord blood units will reduce the incidence of graft-versus-host disease, GVHD, a serious complication of blood cell transplantation in which the donor cells attack the recipient. GVHD is the biggest barrier to successful transplantation.

I am glad to know that the Advisory Council and HRSA have been working with public cord blood banks to discuss ways to increase CBU quality and diversity. As the inventory continues to grow, the diverse units within the NCBI will serve an increasing number of patients that have difficulty obtaining cells from well-matched adult donors.

Cell dose and degree of match between patient and CBU are both strongly associated with transplant outcomes. A larger inventory of publicly available CBUs also will contribute to improved patient survival after transplant because a growing inventory of high cell count CBUs will allow better tissue matches.

Cord blood banks have told us that they cannot do this on their own. With-

out continued support from HRSA, this life-saving science would be financially unsustainable. We must reauthorize this important program.

Today, I am introducing the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act of 2015 to further advance the important work of the bone marrow and cord blood programs.

Passage of this legislation will preserve the commitment that the Congress made three decades ago to help patients with blood cancers and other life-threatening diseases by helping to increase access to life-saving transplants. It will also open the doors to new discoveries within the fields of cellular therapy and regenerative medicine. I am proud to introduce the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act of 2015, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am pleased to introduce the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act of 2015 with Senators HATCH, FRANKEN, and BURR. This bill offers promise to the tens of thousands of individuals diagnosed with leukemia and lymphomas, sickle cell anemia, and rare genetic blood disorders.

It will reauthorize the C.W. Bill Young National Marrow Donor Program, which has been helping to connect individuals in need of a bone marrow transplant with donors since 1986, and the National Cord Blood Inventory, which has been helping to connect individuals in need of an umbilical cord blood transplant with donors since 1999.

The public registries, made up of donors from all over the country, have been a true lifeline for the Americans who have found an unrelated match. By strengthening and enhancing the important programs operating these registries, many more Americans will be afforded the opportunity to find a match if they are ever in need.

I look forward to swift consideration of this legislation in the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee and working toward passage in the full Senate.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. RISCH):

S. 2283. A bill to ensure that small business providers of broadband Internet access service can devote resources to broadband deployment rather than compliance with cumbersome regulatory requirements; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, small businesses are the backbone of America. They generate more than half of the country's private GDP and support millions of families. In Montana, thanks to technology, geography is no longer a constraint and entrepreneurs have been able to build world-class companies without leaving the state.

Access to the global marketplace is largely dependent on access to the Internet. Large incumbent carriers

often do not have enough of an incentive to serve rural America so States like Montana really depend on small businesses to fill in the gaps and connect our communities. Without small broadband providers, many Montanans would remain unserved. This is why it is so important to support our small businesses and allow them to continue to provide jobs and economic growth in their communities.

Burdensome regulations like the FCC's net neutrality rules are strangling our small businesses and preventing growth and investment. The enhanced transparency requirements in particular require small businesses to disclose an excess amount of information including network packet loss, network performance by geographic area, network performance during peak usage, network practices concerning a particular group of users, triggers that activate network practices, and the list goes on. Small companies like Grizzly Internet in West Yellowstone, MO, operate with only three employees and do not have a team of attorneys dedicated to regulatory compliance. Small businesses simply do not have the bandwidth to take on additional regulatory burdens.

That is why I am proud to introduce the Small Business Broadband Deployment Act of 2015 with my colleague Senator RISCH. The bill makes permanent the FCC's temporary small business exception to the net neutrality enhanced transparency requirements. There is broad support in the record for a small business exception, including support from the American Cable Association, Rural Wireless Association, Competitive Carriers Association, Wireless Internet Service Providers Association, CTIA—The Wireless Association, Rural Broadband Provider Coalition, WTA—Advocates for Rural Broadband. Additionally, the Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy filed comments with the FCC stating, "Advocacy has concerns that compliance with the enhanced transparency requirements under the 2015 Open Internet Order is not feasible for small broadband providers, particularly small rural providers, and may ultimately degrade the quality of service that consumers receive from small providers." Providing relief from over 300 pages of net neutrality rules will allow small businesses to focus on deploying infrastructure and serving their customers rather than spending time on regulatory compliance. I ask my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this much needed legislation.

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. 2283

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 “Small Business Broadband Deployment Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. EXCEPTION TO ENHANCEMENT TO TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this Act—

(1) the term “broadband Internet access service”—

(A) means a mass-market retail service by wire or radio that provides the capability to transmit data to and receive data from all or substantially all Internet endpoints, including any capability that is incidental to and enables the operation of the communications service; and

(B) does not include dial-up Internet access service; and

(2) the term “small business” means any provider of broadband Internet access service that has not more than—

(A) 1,500 employees; or

(B) 500,000 subscribers.

(b) **EXCEPTION FOR SMALL BUSINESSES.**—The enhancements to the transparency rule of the Federal Communications Commission under section 8.3 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, as described in paragraphs 162 through 184 of the Report and Order on Remand, Declaratory Ruling, and Order of the Federal Communications Commission with regard to protecting and promoting the open Internet (adopted February 26, 2015) (FCC 15–24), shall not apply to any small business.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 313—CONDEMNING THE TERRORIST ATTACKS IN PARIS AND OFFERING THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS FOR THE VICTIMS, CONDOLENCES TO THEIR FAMILIES, RESOLVE TO SUPPORT THE PEOPLE OF FRANCE, AND THE PLEDGE TO DEFEND DEMOCRACY AND STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE COUNTRY OF FRANCE AND ALL OUR ALLIES IN THE FACE OF THIS HORRIFIC ATTACK ON FREEDOM AND LIBERTY

Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COATS, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr.

SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 313

Whereas, on November 13, 2015, at least eight armed gunmen and suicide bombers conducted six separate attacks across the city of Paris, France, killing at least 129 civilians and wounding over 350 innocent men, women, and children;

Whereas these horrific attacks mark the deadliest violence to strike the Republic of France since World War II, the worst act of terrorism to strike Europe since the 2004 attacks in Madrid, Spain, that killed 191 and wounded approximately 1,800 others, and one of the worst terrorist acts carried out on Western soil since the catastrophic attacks of September 11, 2001;

Whereas Paris is still grieving from the January 7, 2015, terrorist attack on the offices of the French newspaper Charlie Hebdo that brutally murdered 12 people and injured at least 11 others;

Whereas President of the Republic of France Francois Hollande has declared a national state of emergency and deployed approximately 1,500 military members across the city of Paris;

Whereas President Hollande condemned these events as “an act of war that was committed by a terrorist army, a jihadist army, Daesh”;

Whereas President Hollande further declared that “when terrorists are capable of committing such atrocities they must be certain that they are facing a determined France, a united France, a France that is together and does not let itself be moved, even if today we express infinite sorrow”;

Whereas President Barack Obama called these heinous actions not just an attack on Paris and the people of France, but an attack on all of humanity and the universal values that we share;

Whereas the Republic of France is America’s oldest ally, dating back to Marquis de Lafayette, and the people of the United States and France mutually share a debt of gratitude that dates from the formation of our republics through two world wars;

Whereas the people of the Republic of France have expressed solidarity with the people of the United States, including following the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001, which claimed the lives of thousands of innocent civilians in the United States;

Whereas the French people have made manifest their commitment to the United States by partnering with United States forces in Afghanistan and Iraq and as an important partner in the fight against extremist terrorism in Mali and around the world;

Whereas at least one United States citizen was murdered in these heinous attacks and at least four others were injured; and

Whereas these attacks represent both an assault on freedom and democracy and an unmitigated evil that the United States and United States allies must stand united to defeat: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the brutal attacks on the people of Paris that resulted in the death of at least 129 people, including one United States citizen, through shootings, hostage-taking, and suicide bombings of innocent, civilian targets;

(2) expresses its heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies for the victims and family members of those attacked;

(3) renews the solidarity of the people and Government of the United States with the people and Government of the Republic of France; and

(4) pledges support for the Government of France to pursue justice against those involved in these heinous attacks and to prevent future attacks.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS**

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 16, 2015, at 5 p.m., to conduct a classified briefing entitled “U.S. Policy Tools to Combat North Korea’s Nuclear and Ballistic Missile Capabilities.”

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

CONDEMNING THE TERRORIST ATTACKS IN PARIS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 313, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 313) condemning the terrorist attacks in Paris and offering thoughts and prayers for the victims, condolences to their families, resolve to support the people of France, and the pledge to defend democracy and stand in solidarity with the country of France and all our allies in the face of this horrific attack on freedom and liberty.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 313) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2015

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, November 17; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and that the Senate

then observe a moment of silence for the victims of the Paris attacks; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, until 11 a.m.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:07 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, November 17, 2015, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

HESTER MARIA PEIRCE, OF OHIO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 5, 2021. (REAPPOINTMENT)

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE SURGEON GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY, AND FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 3036:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. NADJA Y. WEST

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. EDWARD E. HILDRETH III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COLONEL JENNIFER G. BUCKNER
COLONEL SEAN A. GAINES
COLONEL DAVID T. ISAACSON
COLONEL PATRICK B. ROBERSON

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY AS DEPUTY COMMANDANT FOR OPERATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 50:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. FRED M. MIDGETTE

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate November 16, 2015:

THE JUDICIARY

LASHANN MOUTIQUE DEARCY HALL, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.