



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 166

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2020

No. 207

## Senate

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

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, keep us from disappointing You. Inspire us in all we say and do to glorify You. Empower our Senators to strive to please You in their every thought and action.

Lord, we acknowledge that You are our rock of safety and our fortress during every season of distress. Give our lawmakers the wisdom to honor Your Name in their work, entrusting You to take care of all their tomorrows. Set them in a safe place because of Your unfailing love and faithfulness.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The Senator from Iowa.

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

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

### TRIBUTE TO TOM HARKIN

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, long before he was sworn into the U.S. Senate, my former colleague, Tom Harkin from Iowa, served in the U.S. Navy in Vietnam. He and I represented Iowans for 30 years together here in the U.S. Senate.

Six years ago, I came to the floor to wish my friend well in retirement, and

I used these words: [So that he could] enjoy the blessings of hearth and home.

Now, I am not so sure that he took my advice to heart. I recently learned that Tom has been moonlighting in retirement as an intrepid crew member sailing the icy waters of the North Atlantic. In fact, he joined the crew of 59 North Sailing for five voyages. His most recent adventure found Tom aboard *Ice Bear* navigating gale force winds in and around the rugged coastline of Newfoundland.

They say you can't take the farm out of an Iowa farm kid. The same must be true for a lifelong sailor and the sea.

Tom recently celebrated his 81st birthday in November. Barbara and I wish him many more trips around the Sun and as many adventures at sea that his heart desires.

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

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

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

### UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, this week, some Senators indicate they may attempt to move a privileged resolution to disapprove of the administration's proposed sale of advanced armaments to the United Arab Emirates, a critical partner in our fight against terrorists. It is a little baffling to suggest that now, of all times, a protest gesture with no chance of obtaining a veto-proof majority is of valuable use

of the Senate's time. But above and beyond that, the strategic realities dictate that Congress should not stand in the way of this sale.

In August, the UAE reached the first of the Abraham Accords, the landmark peace deal with Israel, brokered by the Trump administration, which Bahrain soon went on to reprise. That step, the first normalization of relations between the Arab nation and the State of Israel in nearly 30 years, cemented an important new chapter in the UAE's international relations and its close relationship with the United States.

Of course, it is a key American objective to preserve and protect Israel's quantitative military edge. Fortunately, Israel's Ambassador, Defense Minister, and Prime Minister have all made sure they are comfortable with this deal.

Senators considering this sale need to consider a reality we cannot escape. A significant competition for influence in the Middle East is underway, and China and Russia will be more than happy to meet the demand for advanced capabilities if the United States simply takes our ball and goes home.

If our colleagues make the Senate vote on this measure, I urge all my colleagues to vote against it.

### TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL ENZI

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, now, on an entirely different matter, my colleagues here in the U.S. Senate are, to put it mildly, an impressive bunch. It always makes it a challenge to pay adequate tribute when one leaves our ranks.

But even by the high standards of this place, the course charted by the Senator, whom I have to send off this morning, stands out. The senior Senator from Wyoming, Senator MIKE ENZI, has accomplished enough in one career to fill two. He seemingly glided from business success to military service, to local government, to State politics, to the U.S. Senate, where he has

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S7247

built a remarkably productive legislative record.

MIKE's prolific career began in a small town. In fact, Gillette, WY, was so small when MIKE and his wife Diana arrived and stood up the family business, the town still carried the less-than-flattering nickname of "Dirt."

But new discoveries in the American energy business were in the course of changing everything. A major oil and gas boom meant more people. More people meant more sales at MIKE's NZ Shoes store—that is the letter "N" and the letter "Z."

MIKE could have just sat back and cruised, but MIKE saw Gillette struggling to keep up with the growth, and basic services were lagging. Nearly everyone who encountered him in town or in the junior chamber of commerce meetings concluded this up-and-comer had real leadership talent. I understand the final prod into public service came from no less a Wyoming statesman, our own former colleague, Al Simpson.

They had crossed paths. Alan had heard MIKE speak. He took the promising young man aside to tell him rather pointedly that his town sure did need a good mayor. To be precise, MIKE tells us the phrasing was typically blunt Al Simpson: "Put your money where your mouth is."

Our future colleague took it under advisement. But MIKE almost didn't survive long enough to announce his campaign. The way he told it on the floor last week, when he worked up the courage to relay that suggestion to Diana on their long drive home, she almost swerved right off the road. Fortunately, they were unharmed, and the more they talked, the more they liked the idea of making a difference.

So, at the ripe old age of 30, this up-and-coming businessman ran for mayor, and he won. On his watch, what could have been a municipal disaster became an economic golden age for Gillette. It didn't take long for the town's fortunes to become the talk of political minds around Wyoming.

After a few years off, the former Mayor ENZI was representing his neighbors as State representative and then as State senator. And just like water seeks its own level, talent tends to seek its best outlet. So, after squeaking out a close primary victory over his now-fellow Senator from Wyoming, JOHN BARRASSO, MIKE packed his bags for Washington in late 1996, and this body gained, at that time, its only trained accountant.

Now, MIKE knew that if he was going to properly serve his beloved State, he would need fellow Wyomingites working alongside him—people who shared his no-nonsense affection for careful planning and thrift in government.

One of his best decisions was persuading his longtime collaborator, the onetime town manager of Gillette, Flip McConaughy, to move to Washington and be his chief of staff. MIKE says he initially had 500 applications for that job, but none of them was the one he

wanted. The experienced salesman had to pitch his longtime friend on the opening, and it worked.

From Gillette to the Senate, Flip was MIKE's secret weapon—not just a staffer, but as MIKE tells it, a true partner in service for many years. When Flip passed away much too soon in 2016, this entire institution felt the loss.

MIKE's staff likes to say he has a whole collection of useful hats he can wear to approach Senate business: the perspective of a mayor or of a small business owner or a State legislator or an accountant or a Wyomingite. Well, that hasn't just been a winning combination for the people of Wyoming. It has benefited our entire country.

MIKE's trade secret has been what he calls the 80-20 rule. Across all the issues he tackled, he insists about four-fifths of the subject matter is potential common ground ripe for progress. He said: You just can't let the controversial 20 percent blow everything up.

Well, that approach made our colleague from Wyoming downright prolific. MIKE has been directly responsible for the passage of more than 100 bills. He has become a go-to leader on everything from budget, tax reform, and the deficit to AIDS relief and workplace safety. His sober, prudent approach—not to mention his practical experience keeping the books and making payroll—made MIKE exactly the sort of person taxpayers hope are managing their dollars.

He used budget resolutions to steer the Federal Government toward more sustainable fiscal help. He helped shepherd the first major overhaul of the Federal Tax Code in a generation. He has kept a watchful eye on the unintended consequences of legislation, such as the recent work to help relieve Main Street lenders from the one-size-fits-all burden of Dodd-Frank.

Back when Chairman ENZI was steering the HELP Committee, his Democratic counterpart was Ted Kennedy—a fastidious small-government guy from Wyoming and the "liberal lion" from Massachusetts. Call it the 80-20 rule's final exam, and they passed that exam. They worked together to create bipartisan outcomes on things like worker safety, pension reform, and mental health parity.

So, to be clear, there has been no lack of conservative conviction in MIKE's career. Just ask our Democratic colleagues about the times their debates with MIKE landed in the 20 percent, and that is when the gloves came off. This is the Senator one broadcaster in 2013 called "the Paul Revere of ObamaCare."

But MIKE never lost sight of the mission. He kept up the hunt for common ground, autism research, vocational training, and carried the torch for PEPFAR, the historic fight against AIDS in Africa.

MIKE's insatiable appetite for making a difference brought some interesting characters into his life. It turned out that quite a few high-profile celebrities

were happy to meet with one of this body's chief champions on the AIDS issue.

But let the record reflect that east coast, Washington, DC, life never spoiled MIKE. I heard from a reliable source that after wrapping up one meeting with Bono, the world-famous front man of U2 and a leader in the fight against AIDS, MIKE cheerfully offered the following parting remark to the well-established superstar: "Well . . . good luck with the band!"

If you have seen MIKE in action around the Senate—devouring details, mastering issue after issue—it is hard to imagine him making time for much of anything outside his work. But you would be badly mistaken, because one of the worst kept secrets around the Capitol is that MIKE is one of the very warmest Members of the Senate family.

As we prepare to bid him farewell, MIKE's colleagues may miss his wise leadership on legislation, but I suspect the loss will be greater for future classes of Senate pages, who will be denied the pizza and ice creams parties MIKE threw to celebrate their successes. The staff at a favorite nearby Mexican restaurant will miss a couple who, along with the Barrassos and the Grassleys, spent years ranked among their most devoted weekly visitors.

More than anything, I know the dedicated staff of the Senate, who don't get thanked enough—from the Parliamentarian's office to food services, to the Capitol Police—will miss the massive holiday cookie parties orchestrated by Field Marshal Diana Enzi.

Diana has organized the production of hundreds of dozens of baked treats every year. MIKE is more like her assistant in that endeavor. Their unstoppable tradition of giving back to our colleagues, even this year, encapsulates just what kind of hearts this couple shares.

As we know, these labors of love come on top of Diana's own important work, like her longtime focus on clearing land mines in Eastern Europe.

I don't mean any of this to guilt MIKE into staying, because MIKE always has his head on straight, his plans laid, and his priorities lined up. So he knows that even on our best days, the Senate can't hold a candle to the joys of the next chapter he and Diana have planned.

It turns out that the man whose Senate website includes a page of "Grandfatherly advice" is looking forward to more free time for delivering that advice to his own grandkids in person.

And I understand there are still several States in which MIKE has yet to cast a line. One of the Senate's most intrepid anglers will no longer have to plan around this body's schedule as he seeks to correct this oversight.

So, MIKE, while all of us here are sorry to see you go, I know our colleagues join me in wishing you "tight lines." We are so glad you brought

your mind and your heart here to this body. Thank you for sharing your gifts with the country you love.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Madam President, I thank the leader for his kind remarks and incredible research. I particularly appreciate the comments about Flip McConnaughey, whom I worked with for 40 years before he passed away from cancer. If there was ever anybody in the United States who had a municipal problem, he would work with me as we grew Gillette, and he was able to solve a lot of those municipal problems. So he was the go-to person on the Hill for all of that.

I say to the Senator, I really appreciate those comments, as well as all of the other things you mentioned, particularly the ones about Diana. Without her, I would not have had the shoe store, I would not have been in politics, I would not have been here, nor would I have been able to do anything. I wouldn't have traveled around Wyoming. She does most of the driving so that I can work on speeches and legislation, and it is a chance for us to visit a little bit too. We don't get to do a lot of that here in Washington because of the schedules, again.

But I particularly want to thank you for your leadership during this time. It has been phenomenal, like the research that you did on that speech. The strategy that you put into legislation is incredible. You get a lot done, in spite of the differences we might have with the House or with the other side of the aisle or occasionally with the President, but you keep us moving forward. It is a talent that is hard to do under the circumstances that we work, and I really appreciate it. So thank you for your comments.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

ceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Nathan A. Simington, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2019.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

#### TRIBUTE TO CORY GARDNER

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to two Senators whom I had hoped to serve with longer: CORY GARDNER and MARTHA MCSALLY.

One of the first things that became clear about CORY GARDNER when he came to the Senate is that he is an incredibly hard worker. He is tireless. CORY has not only a great sense of humor; I remember back during impeachment when we were working some really late nights, he left 5-hour ENERGY drinks for all of us in our mailboxes.

I have to say, you kind of need a 5-hour ENERGY drink to keep up with CORY. Seriously, though, CORY has a tremendous amount of energy and focus and drive, and he has left it all on the field during his time in the Senate.

I think he knew when he was elected that he might not be here forever, and he has made every moment over the past 6 years count. He is a results-oriented person. He is interested in getting things done, and he has built an impressive record.

Serving the people of Colorado has been the first thing on his mind every day. He spent a lot of time working on Colorado priorities, from protecting our public lands to improving wildfire preparedness, to expanding healthcare access for veterans by ensuring the completion of the VA hospital in Aurora, CO.

He has also been a leader on foreign policy issues, specifically on the issue of holding North Korea and China accountable for their lack of freedom and their human rights violations, such as China's mass incarceration of Uighurs and its targeting of Chinese citizens who dissent from the Communist Party line.

CORY has also been a great friend to Taiwan. Among other things, he authored the TAIPEI Act, which the President signed into law earlier this year, legislation that makes it U.S. policy to support Taiwan's efforts to strengthen its relationships with countries in the Indo-Pacific and around the world. A free, prosperous, and safe Taiwan is in the interest of the United States, and CORY understands this well.

In addition to being one of the hardest working people you will ever meet, CORY is also one of the most pleasant. He has an upbeat personality and a contagious cheer, and committee hearings and meetings are always more enjoyable when he is around.

He has been called a happy warrior. I think it is a fitting title. He is an eter-

nal optimist. I don't mean that in a naive, wide-eyed sort of way. CORY is well aware of the challenges we face in our Nation and around the world, but he genuinely believes in our country and in our ability as citizens and as Members of Congress to make life better for our fellow Americans.

And over his 6 years here in the Senate, he has helped make life better for his constituents in all four corners of his State and for the American people. Nobody could have worked harder for Colorado over the past 6 years—nobody—and he has done more for his State in a single term than many have managed to do in twice as long a time period.

We were fortunate to have CORY here in the U.S. Senate. I will miss serving with him, but I look forward to seeing what he does next. Whatever it is, I am confident of one thing: It will be great.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARTHA MCSALLY

Madam President, I didn't get as much time as I would have liked to work with MARTHA MCSALLY. She spent just 2 years with us here in the Senate, but she made the most of them.

MARTHA's record is well known: 26 years in the Air Force, multiple deployments to the Middle East and Afghanistan, the first woman in U.S. history to fly a fighter jet in combat, the first woman in U.S. history to command a fighter squadron in combat, the Bronze Star, six Air Medals, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives. And the list goes on.

I am a longtime runner, basketball player, sports fan, so I am pretty committed to exercise, and one of the places I got to know MARTHA after she came to the Senate was in the Senate gym. MARTHA was a regular there.

I have always believed that you can tell a lot about somebody by the work ethic that they bring when they are approaching physical exercise, something I saw growing up with my dad. He was a World War II fighter pilot who embodied the humility and quiet service that characterized the "greatest generation," and those traits carried over in his approach to sports. He was a basketball and track coach when I was growing up and, prior to that, the most valuable player for the University of Minnesota basketball team back in 1941.

He approached everything with humility and service. Those were the values that he emphasized the most. Your job as a member of the team was to make the team better, not to make yourself look good. And if the team needed you to make the basket, then great, but if the team needed you to make that extra pass so that someone else could make the shot, then that is what you did.

That is the way that my dad taught us, the way that he coached us, and I have always said and believed that you can tell a lot about someone by how they approach physical exercise and sporting events and that sort of thing.

I can tell you that MARTHA attacked it just like she does everything else. She approaches that with the same determination and intensity that she does in every other aspect of her life.

She pushes herself to her limits, and those are the qualities that she has displayed throughout her career, whether she was breaking glass ceilings in the military or fighting here in Congress to protect the A-10 Warthog.

She has made the most of her 2 years in the Senate, tying for the most bills signed into law during her first year. And Arizona has benefited from her tenacity and commitment.

MARTHA is tough and determined, but she is also kind and generous, all traits that were displayed in her farewell speech last week. There was a lot to admire in that speech. I was particularly struck by the gratitude that she displayed. A lesser person might have betrayed some bitterness at the brevity of her time here. MARTHA was just grateful—grateful for the opportunity to serve, grateful for the team who worked with her, grateful for what she was able to accomplish for Arizona.

I am grateful not only to have served with her but to have had her as a part of the whip team here in this Congress. Unsurprisingly, she was a dedicated and effective deputy whip, and I will miss having her on the team.

At the end of her farewell address, MARTHA said:

Today represents a change in seasons for me. I don't yet have clarity on what my next mission will be, but I do know who is the author and finisher of my faith and that He created each of us with a purpose.

I am confident that the author of our faith has more great missions in mind for MARTHA MCSALLY, and I look forward to seeing her take them on.

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

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

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, everywhere you look, there are signs the country needs emergency Federal relief before the end of the year. Cases, hospitalizations, and deaths are rising. COVID restrictions are snapping back into place in cities and States around the country. Economists are warning of a double-dip recession if Congress fails to pass another round of fiscal stimulus.

The situation is really quite simple. There are flaring needs in the country, and we need to work across party lines to pass legislation to meet those needs. Let me say it again. We need both parties to sit down and compromise on

legislation to help the American people. That is the only way to get legislation passed. But observers of this process seem to have lost track of this simple truth. The Republican leader seems to have forgotten about it entirely.

Amazingly, it has been over 8 months since Congress came together to pass the CARES Act, and the leader's position has not budged. The majority leader continues to insist that the Senate accept one of his partisan Republican proposals, each one of which has been sorely inadequate and each of which has contained poison pills designed to ensure the bill's failure.

The most conspicuous of these poison pills is the so-called "red line" the majority leader has tried to draw on the issue of corporate immunity. Contrary to the majority leader's dire predictions, there has been no flood of COVID lawsuits—in fact, quite the opposite. Almost a year into this pandemic, with nearly 15 million Americans infected and 280,000 lives lost to COVID-19, there have only been 111 COVID-related lawsuits filed regarding conditions of employment, 23 suits for personal injury for exposure to the coronavirus in a public place, and 11 COVID-related medical malpractice suits.

Far from a pandemic of lawsuits, there has barely been a trickle. Yet the Republican leader continues to prevent Americans from getting the aid they so desperately need and deserve until he gets this piece of partisan, ideological legislation. Again, yesterday, while the leader was busy accusing Democrats of blocking "bipartisan" legislation that "everyone agrees on"—his words—other Members of the Republican leadership were making it clear that Leader MCCONNELL continues to insist on this particular poison pill. The Republican whip said that any relief must have corporate immunity provisions that "satisfy Senator MCCONNELL."

Imagine holding emergency aid hostage—help for the unemployed, help for small businesses, help to pay the salaries of police and firefighters, help for individual Americans, funding to deliver a vaccine—in order to give corporations legal immunity. But that has been the Republican position for the past 8 months, and it is the leader's position today.

For the sake of bipartisan negotiations, Republican leadership should forsake these hard-line positions. You can't claim to want bipartisanship while actively demanding the Senate accept partisan legislation. "Bipartisan" does not mean Democrats must agree to whatever the Republican leader wants on whatever issue he picks. "Bipartisan" means both sides—both sides—sitting down and finding agreement to meet the needs of the country and make a law. That process is happening with the Gang of 8. It should continue until we get a solution.

#### NOMINATION OF NATHAN SIMINGTON

Madam President, the Senate will also vote on the nomination of Nathan

Simington, a Republican nominee to the FCC.

Normally, these nominations to independent Boards and Commissions are paired—one Democrat, one Republican—to keep balance on the board, but here in the waning days of a lame-duck Presidency, the Republican majority is rushing to approve a single Republican nominee.

The nominee himself is far from uncontroversial. Mr. Simington's key qualifications seem to be that he supports President Trump's desired changes to section 230, a law that regulates internet speech. In fact, it appears that he severely misled Senators on the Commerce Committee when he told them that while working for a Federal agency, he played only an administrative role in his Department's petition for the repeal of section 230. It turns out that Mr. Simington was not only pushing the petition himself, he was actively lobbying FOX News to support it for political reasons.

I strongly urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to reject Mr. Simington's nomination to the FCC.

#### TRIBUTE TO TOM UDALL

Madam President, finally, as we approach the end of the Senate session, I have the unhappy task of bidding farewell to Senators who will be concluding their time in this Chamber. Within an hour, our dear friend and dear colleague, Senator TOM UDALL of New Mexico, will give his final speech here on the Senate floor.

For the past 12 years, Senators have been lucky to work with a legislator of Senator UDALL's caliber, someone who possesses a mastery of public policy, who is practical as well as principled. You always know where Senator UDALL stands on an issue, but you also know he is always willing to sit with you and work with you until you find common ground. Because of these qualities, TOM will leave this Chamber as a supremely accomplished legislator, a fierce defender of the environment, and a true champion of the American West.

A lot of politicians get described as wunderkinds for getting elected at a young age. You would be hard-pressed to find someone who got their start in politics earlier than TOM. He made his debut at the plucky age of 5, hoisting campaign signs on the back of his dad's convertible during his dad's first bid for Congress.

Public service runs deep in the veins of a Udall. It might be called the sap of the Udall family tree. Alongside his father, TOM looked up to his uncle Mo, who succeeded his father in Congress and ran for President as one of his generation's great environmental advocates. Not too long ago, the Senate rollcall featured two Udalls, TOM and his cousin Mark. Even now, our colleague from Utah, Senator LEE, is a second cousin to the Udall clan.

Ultimately, it was TOM's dad who taught him a lifelong love of the political process. During the years Stewart Udall served as Interior Secretary, TOM

would watch from the living room as his dad sat at the dinner table surrounded by Democrats and Republicans alike—both sides at dinner working together. Those memories left a mark. TOM would spend his time in Congress trying to do much the same. TOM's work with Senator Vitter led to one of his greatest accomplishments in office: the first major revision of the Toxic Substances Control Act in 40 years. At the time, it was the most significant environmental law to pass Congress in over 20 years.

TOM also had become one of the Senate's leading authorities on Tribal policy, cosponsoring over a quarter of the bills that passed through the Indian Affairs Committee on their way to being signed into law. Legislation to improve Tribal access to affordable healthcare and funding to support Native American language preservation programs and boost support for Native American entrepreneurs all bear the Udall stamp.

When it comes to protecting our environment and public lands, no one commands greater respect than the senior Senator from New Mexico. TOM helped increase funding for the Department of Interior by 25 percent, including billions to protect our national parks and expand our wildlife preserves. Through the Great American Outdoors Act, TOM helped secure permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund—a fund his dad helped establish over 40 years ago.

One of TOM's favorite authors, Wallace Stegner, once wrote:

Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed. . . . We simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in.

Well, TOM did a whole lot more than “look in.” He preserved, he conserved, and he expanded the great American wilderness for generations hence.

These highlights, impressive as they are, are only the tip of the iceberg. Over his 12 years in office, TOM's legislative accomplishments ran the gamut of consumer protection, conservation policy, climate change, the protection of Tribal nations, and, most recently, a principled stand against the current administration's attempts to roll back critical environmental protections. Through it all, TOM has been unendingly civil, decent, and kind. He has deep friendships, real friendships, long-lasting friendships in our caucus and across the aisle. He prefers to solve problems, no matter who gets the credit, sometimes resisting the urge to make a splash in public.

Kidding aside, TOM is as down-to-earth as they come. There is just no artifice about him. He is a decent Senator and a man. You couldn't find any better. Other Senators will attest to these qualities, I am sure, and so will his staff—a tribute that is perhaps even greater. The respect and loyalty that Senator UDALL commands from those who work for him day in and day out is something extraordinary.

We don't know when a Udall will next grace the halls with their presence, but I do know this: Our country needs more leaders like TOM.

Senator UDALL once said his father and his uncle were lifelong role models because they had the right mix of inspiration and perspiration. He said: “They were both visionaries, but they were also doers.” I can think of no better description of TOM UDALL himself—a visionary but also a doer.

TOM, as you move on to the next chapter in your life, I wish you and Jill the very best of luck on the road ahead.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

#### FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. UDALL. Madam President, I thank Senator SCHUMER for those kind remarks earlier.

As you know, I announced last year that I wasn't running for reelection, and if I had known everyone was going to be so nice to me, I might have announced it earlier.

I am not the only Senator who is giving a farewell speech. Many of us got to hear LAMAR ALEXANDER last week. LAMAR is the perfect example of what a U.S. Senator should be. Before I was wet behind the ears in the Senate, in my first week here, LAMAR invited me and Jill, my wife, to dinner. There it began. Jill and Honey, LAMAR's wife, became fast friends, and LAMAR and I grew closer, building the kind of friendship that is essential here in the Senate. We worked together to get things done for our States in bolstering our National Laboratories and conserving our great outdoors. Something else we shared was Mario, our barber in the Senate barbershop. To be honest, that is the best place to learn the wisdom of the Senate—by sitting in Mario's chair.

Friendships like I have with LAMAR and Mario are what I will miss most about the Senate. It is the friendships because, as any good Senator will tell you, friendships are what get you over the finish line. I will cherish the friendships I have forged over the last 12 years.

I will miss serving the people of New Mexico in Congress. The greatest honor of my life has been doing that, and I am confident that New Mexico will be in good hands with my friend Senator HEINRICH, my great partner over the last 8 years. With his dedicated advocacy for our communities and his love of the land—all of that—MARTIN has been an inspiration, and Senator-Elect BEN RAY LUJÁN, whom I have the privilege of calling a friend, I know will fight for New Mexico families every single day in the Senate.

I will miss the righteous struggle we take up in these Halls to build a more perfect Union, and I will miss all of you—my staff, colleagues, and everyone who works around the clock—and the unsung heroes who keep the Senate running, people like John, Leigh, Mary

Anne, and all of the folks who are here in front of you. There are too many to thank.

First and foremost, I thank my staff. Every Senator here knows we are only as good as the people on our teams, and as my friend PATRICK LEAHY says, we Senators are often just a constitutional impediment to the staff. Over the years, I have been blessed with staffers who are full of talent, skill, drive, and heart.

I don't want to leave anyone out, so I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a list of all of my staff who have been part of Team UDALL.

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

Ned Adriance, Anna Alexander, Beverly Allen, Anna Apodaca, Gabe Apodaca, Lauren Arias, Michael Bales, Paloma Arroyo-Lefebvre, Jonathan Black, Greg Bloom, Jessica Borchert, Billy Busch, Rene Camacho, Xochitl Campos, Jack Carpenter, Nick Carter, Sameer Chintamani, Dorcas Cisse, Leeanne Clark, Sarah Cobb, Emma Coghlan, Jennifer Collins, Michael Collins, Clinton Cowan, Tiffany Cox, Laura Creech, Walter Cross, Kevin Cummins, Cal Curley, Laura Davidson, Reyes De La Cruz, Sabrina De Santiago, Leticia Delgado, Francesca Di Palma, Kristine Dietz, Meredith Dixon, Noelle Dominguez, Elizabeth Driggers, Pablo Duran, Roger Duran.

Bobbie Ferrell, Rachel Fleischer, Meagan Foster, Tannis Fox, Claudette Frausto, Julia Friedmann, Jenna Frosch, Adam Fullerton, Ariel Garayar, Jack Gardner, Renée Gasper, Cara Gilbert, Fern Goodhart, Melanie Goodman, Marco Grajeda, Jessica Grubestic, Stephenne Harding, Jesse Hale, Emma Hamilton, Miranda Hernandez, Sierra Howlett, Cynthia Hull, Carolyn Ice, Michele Jacques-Ortiz, Stephen Jochem, Michael Johnson, Alex Jordan, Michelle Kavanaugh, Edward Kellum, Sean Kennedy, Caroline Klaff, Stephanie Kuo, Talia Lapid, Jeffrey Lopez, Michael Lopez, Yesenia Luna, Jeanette Lyman, Rachel Marchand, Crystal Martinez, Jaime McCarthy.

Jake McCook, Amber McDowell, Everette McKoy, Matt Miller, Elisa Morales, Donda Morgan, Rachel Montoya, Raven Murray, Tom Nagle, Ben Nathanson, Matt Nelson, Casey O'Neill, Annie Orloff, Steven Ortega, Bianca Ortiz Wertheim, Marissa Padilla, Matthew Padilla, Olivia Padilla, Russell Page, Carmela Quintana, Anna Rael Delay, Eddie Render, Alyssa Roberts, Kelly Romero, Rene Romo, Ken Rooney, Zachary Rosenberg, Carlos Sanchez, Joshua Sanchez, Ben Salazar, Laura Salgado, Alethea Scally, Alicia Schreiner, Anthony Sedillo, Kelly Seibert, Leo Sheehan, Sam Simon, Alyson Sincavage, Joshua Sisneros, Jeffrey Stein.

Jake Stewart, Kristina Swallow, Tomas Talamante, Jennifer Talhelm, Michael Thorning, Xochitl Torres Small, Patsy Trujillo, Lisa Van Theemsche, Roberto Vasquez, Anna Vavruska, Andrew Wallace, Daniel Watson, Zoe Wilson-Meyer, David Williams, Devon Wohl, Bill Woldman, Timothy Woodbury, Veronica Yoo, Jan Zastrow.

Mr. UDALL. I want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart to each of you for your hard work, your public service, and your commitment.

I want to thank my family—my parents Stewart and Lee Udall, who instilled in me the will to do good and to be good.

To my brothers, sisters—my sister Lori, who is here—and cousins who

have supported me throughout my three decades in elected office, thank you.

To Amanda, our daughter, who is my forever campaign manager, and to Judge Jim, our son-in-law and just recently a judge in New Mexico, I thank them for their constant love and support.

Most importantly, thank you to my brilliant and beautiful partner of 42 years, Jill Cooper Udall. Jill has been my rock. She has been my chief counsel. She has been my everything, and I couldn't have asked for a better partner with whom to have this public adventure.

It has truly been an adventure for this son of the West, for after 20-plus years, it is time for me to go back home. As the great western writer Wallace Stegner wrote, "It is not an unusual life curve for Westerners to live in and be shaped by the bigness, sparseness, space, clarity, and hopefulness of the West—to go away for study and enlargement and the perspective that distance and dissatisfaction can give—and then to return to what pleases the sight and enlists the loyalty and demands the commitment."

Stegner said that we fall into two categories. We are either boomers or stickers. Boomers "pillage and run." Stickers are "motivated by affection, by such a love for place and its life that they want to preserve it and remain in it."

I am telling you here today that I am a sticker. I am also an optimist. I want to be more accurate: I am a troubled optimist. I have tried to open my eyes to the challenges we face, while never losing conviction in our ability to meet those challenges.

As the scientist Rachel Carson said, one way to open your eyes is to ask yourself, "What if I had never seen this before? What if I knew I would never see it again?"

I believe this Nation has arrived at a moment when we are opening our eyes to the enormous challenges before us and also to their solutions. Our planet is in crisis—facing mass extinction and climate change. Our people are in coronavirus—ravaged by a pandemic that has laid bare the inequities of our society. Also, our democracy is in crisis as the people's faith in their government is shaken.

We cannot solve one of these crises without solving the others, and that is why I am troubled, but all I have to do to be optimistic is to look around me. I look at the young people across this country who are calling for change, for climate action, for voting rights, for immigrant rights, and for economic, environmental, and racial justice. They have held sit-ins in my office—probably in yours too. They are demanding that we do better, and their determination gives me hope. I am optimistic as I look back on the small acts of kindness and the big acts of progress that define my time in the Congress. I believe that there are lessons in these accomplishments.

Now, you may know me as someone who wants to reform the filibuster, but to be clear, I have always supported the talking filibuster. So, if you will indulge me—and by the rules of the Senate, you have to; you can leave, but I get to keep talking—

(Laughter.)

—I would like to talk about a few of the highlights of my career and what I have learned from them.

As you know, protecting America's outdoor treasures is a cause close to my heart. It is something of a family project. My family homesteaded in the West almost 180 years ago, and like generations of Udalls before me, I grew up with a special connection to the land—to the gorgeous, untamed beauty of the West, to the 60-mile vistas, to the snow-covered, rugged mountains, alpine lakes, and abundant wildlife. MITT ROMNEY knows this, for our great-grandfathers settled the same small western community. Stegner called the West the "geography of hope." It sure is for me. It is what has inspired much of my public service, and that is why I am so proud of what we have accomplished together to conserve our natural heritage.

On the Appropriations Committee, we have worked together for resources for our public lands and environmental protection, on a bipartisan basis, in the face of massive proposed cuts, and we have held off anti-environmental riders that have had no place in these bills.

Thank you to my friend LISA MURKOWSKI, who has been the best partner I could ask for in this work. In New Mexico, where public lands are central to our way of life, we have had enormous success unlocking tens of thousands of acres of enchanted land for all of us to enjoy—and for MARTIN to hunt on every now and then. Each of these efforts was collaborative and community-driven, and that collaborative work has culminated in one of the biggest conservation victories in American history—the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act. Thanks to the determination of a grassroots coalition and many champions here in Congress, we got this bill over the finish line.

For the first time, we have realized the promise of the Land and Water Conservation Fund—the promise my father envisioned almost 55 years ago, when he helped to create our Nation's most successful conservation program. After more than 20 years of fighting for this in Congress, I am thrilled we have gotten it done, and we have gotten it done together.

The law is a model for how conservation and economic recovery can go hand in hand. It will help us to achieve the urgent goal of protecting 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030. Enacting the Great American Outdoors Act, at a time of immense division, is a tremendous feat, and it tells us a lot about what we are capable of. It tells us that conservation is popular—a political winner. Environmental protection can be an area of cooperative ac-

tion, and it must be if humanity is to survive and prosper.

As I talk about my love of the land, I cannot neglect to acknowledge how much I have learned from the original stewards of this land—Native Americans, indigenous people. I got my start in politics by working with my father in fighting alongside the Navajo uranium miners who had been hurt and many who had died. They had been hurt by this Nation, by our nuclear weapons program. My work as vice chair of the Indian Affairs Committee has been the honor of a lifetime and another area in which this committee has achieved bipartisan progress.

I thank my chairmen, Senator HOEVEN and Senator BARRASSO before him, for their partnership and friendship. We have worked together as a committee for better healthcare, education, housing, and urgently needed resources for Native communities, especially as they battle this pandemic.

The Federal Government's obligation to uphold its trust and treaty obligations is sacred. Some of my proudest achievements have been the result of working with Tribal leaders to advance the Indian Country's priorities and to support New Mexico's 23 Tribes.

Recently, a bipartisan coalition passed legislation to strengthen the principle of Tribal self-governance, provide Native entrepreneurs critical resources, and secure investments in Native language revitalization.

The achievements I remember most fondly are ones like these—those we did together. Indeed, those are the only kinds of achievements that are possible in this body.

Take the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act—our landmark reform of the Toxic Substances Control Act. It was the biggest environmental reform in a generation. I was proud to lead that effort to protect our families from toxic chemicals. It was hard work, and it took years. But if you can get a project where JIM INHOFE and ED MARKEY are working for the same goal, you can get a lot done around here.

It is another example of how friendships get you over the finish line. My friendship with David Vitter, my partner on TSCA reform, was sort of like Ted Kennedy and Orrin Hatch's friendship, a political odd couple—me, the son of Mormon pioneers; David, a son of New Orleans—two very different political backgrounds and different views on the big problems before us.

But I will never forget the dinner we had after Frank Lautenberg passed away, when we decided to take on TSCA reform. We looked at each other after that dinner and shook hands and said: We are going to get this done.

And we did. It passed the Senate unanimously. We agreed that there was a problem, and we found common ground on a solution. That is still possible in the Senate.

But I didn't come here to just list accomplishments. You can check my



Twitter feed if you want to see more of that. I do want to share some final thoughts about challenges our Nation faces before I leave the Senate.

I believe that, for all of us here, public service is a calling. It certainly is for me. In my life I have had the privilege of learning from many dedicated servants. One of them was Senator John McCain.

Senator McCain was a friend to me and a friend to my family. When John first came to the House, my Uncle Mo—big Uncle Mo, 6 feet 5 inches—took him under his wing. John did the same for me, and we worked together on issues like campaign finance reform, Native American issues, and others.

John often said to me: “We disagree in politics—but not in life.” Let’s remember that. “We disagree in politics—but not in life.”

My great-grandfather helped settle St. John’s, a small farming and cattle community on the Arizona-New Mexico border, in the 1880s. He had an embroidery that hung on his frontier home that read: “If the good folks don’t get into politics, the scoundrels will take over.”

I believe there are a lot of good folks here in the Senate, but the system we are caught in makes it too hard to work together. We need to remember that we disagree in politics but not in life.

I am not the first to say in a farewell address, and I won’t be the last. But the Senate is broken. The Senate is broken, and it is not working for the American people.

We are becoming better and better political warriors. We are good at landing a punch, at exposing the hypocrisy, and at riling each other up, but we aren’t fostering our better angels. Our peacemaking skills are atrophied. Every hurt takes time to heal, and each time we hurt each other, it sets us back.

But, unfortunately, the structures we have built reward us for hurting one another. We need to reform those structures or we will never make that progress we need to make.

I have proposed Senate rules changes when I was in the minority and when I was in the majority to make sure this institution does not remain a graveyard for progress.

The Founders did not envision a Senate requiring 60 votes to act. The filibuster came to be through historical accident, and it is now woven into the institutional framework. The promise of the filibuster is that the majority will find common ground with the minority, but the reality of the filibuster is paralysis—a deep paralysis.

On top of this, we have a campaign finance system that is out of control. John McCain told you that over and over again, and he called money the cancer growing on our democracy. And John McCain knew a lot about cancer.

Secret money floods campaigns to buy influence instead of letting the

voters speak. Voting rights are under attack. We can do our best to be good people in a system like that, but it is no surprise that America’s faith in government is declining.

These structures are antidemocratic. They reward extremism. They punish compromise.

Our government is supposed to respond to the will of the majority while protecting the rights of the minority. Instead, we have “the tyranny of the minority.” That tyranny is super wealthy, politically powerful, and dangerously out of touch with the American people.

The majority of Americans support pandemic relief, healthcare for every American, action on global warming, racial justice and police reform, and so many other priorities that don’t see much progress in the Senate.

People are losing their faith in the system—rightfully so. We have to do something to fix this.

If we are to take bold action necessary to tackle the urgent problems before us, we must reform our democracy. We must make it easier to vote. We must end the dominance of Big Money, and we must root out corruption.

And we do not have any time to waste. We have no choice but to be bold because the crises before us demand bravery. Hundreds of thousands of Americans are dead from a pandemic—a pandemic that this administration has callously ignored, a consequence of its continued rejection of science. In New Mexico, we have surpassed 108,000 cases, over 1,700 are dead, and tens of thousands have lost their jobs.

Meanwhile, our Nation is facing dual climate and nature crises of epic proportions. Earlier this year, much of the American West was engulfed in wildfire. As an arid State, New Mexico is in the crosshairs of climate change. We lose a football field’s worth of nature every 30 seconds.

A million species are at risk of extinction because of human activity. Our planet’s life support system is under threat. As the climate crisis worsens, ecosystems are destroyed, and as ecosystems are destroyed, we emit more harmful greenhouse gases. We cannot solve one crisis without solving the other.

Protecting nature is about protecting humanity. It is just that simple. And marginalized communities, communities of color, low-income communities, and indigenous people are bearing the worst consequences of the environmental destruction and pollution caused by the rich and the powerful.

We have the power to solve these crises—the power and the obligation. All it takes is clear eyes and political will and remembering that we may disagree in politics but not in the future that we want for our children.

When I was a young man, I spent the summer of 1969 in the mountains of Colorado, teaching students wilderness skills. Each night, we would look up

and open our eyes to the Moon. It seemed impossibly far away.

I am reminded of Rachel Carson’s words: “One way to open your eyes is to ask, what if I had never seen this before?”

When we emerged from the wilderness, we learned what *Apollo 11* had achieved. We had landed on the Moon—the Moon that seemed so impossibly far away.

We should never forget that we can do—we, all of us, can do—the impossible when we open our eyes to the challenge and work together to meet it.

So as I return home to the West, I am clear-eyed about—even troubled by—how far away our destination is. But I am optimistic that we will get there, like we always have.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. HEINRICH. Madam President, it is my honor today to commend the senior Senator from New Mexico, my longtime partner in this Chamber, my good friend TOM UDALL, for his years of service to our great State of New Mexico and to our Nation.

Before I speak about Tom, I would like to quickly take a moment, too, to recognize the service of Congresswoman XOCHITL TORRES SMALL over these last 2 years.

Congresswoman TORRES SMALL actually served for a time in Senator UDALL’s office in Las Cruces, and for these last 2 years in the House of Representatives, she has dedicated herself to delivering resources for the people of southern New Mexico. And I am so very grateful to have served alongside XOCHITL in our congressional delegation, and I am greatly looking forward to seeing how she will contribute her heart and her talents to New Mexico next. She certainly learned a great deal from our senior Senator.

#### TRIBUTE TO TOM UDALL

Now, let me tell you a little bit about our senior Senator, TOM UDALL.

One of the first times I ever spent any serious time with TOM UDALL was actually on horseback. Tom was serving at the time as the Congressman for northern New Mexico’s Third Congressional District, and I was leading a group called the Coalition for New Mexico Wilderness. Together, we rode into rugged mesas and canyons east of Las Vegas, NM—that is the original Las Vegas—that I hoped would soon be designated as the Sabinoso Wilderness.

It was clear right away that Tom shared my sense of wonder in the outdoors and wild places and a strong commitment to protect those precious landscapes for future generations, and despite his day job walking the Halls of Congress, he was pretty comfortable on that horse of his—much more so than myself.

More than a decade later, Tom and I would repeat that horseback ride in Sabinoso, alongside President Trump’s then-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

We were both serving in the Senate by this point. We had successfully

worked together to establish not just the Sabinoso Wilderness but also the Ojito Wilderness, the Columbine-Hondo, the Valles Caldera National Preserve, the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, and the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument.

Now we were working to convince Secretary Zinke—someone I might describe as a bit of a wilderness skeptic—to sign off on the Bureau of Land Management's acceptance of a generous land donation by the Wilderness Land Trust. This land donation would finally open up public access to the spectacular opportunities in the Sabinoso, which was then actually completely landlocked by private lands, and it would substantially grow the Sabinoso Wilderness area.

A couple of hours of both of us riding into Canyon Largo alongside Secretary Zinke, alongside local sportsmen and public lands advocates and community-elected leaders, accomplished what months of testy congressional hearings and office meetings and phone calls here in Washington, DC, could not. Just days after his visit, Secretary Zinke announced that his reservations over accepting new wilderness were assuaged and that he would approve the donation at the Department of Interior.

Thanks to those efforts and that horseback ride, for years to come, all New Mexicans and all Americans will be able to visit this stunning wilderness that we all own together.

This story is but one example from Senator UDALL's long career that demonstrates how bringing people together, even those who may have major disagreements—especially about politics—can still help to find common ground and forge a path forward. That is one of the main lessons that I will always take with me about the example that Senator UDALL has set as such a principled leader.

TOM has devoted his entire career to serving the people of my State. As our State's attorney general, TOM took on major challenges, from curbing pervasive drunk driving to domestic violence, to prosecuting unethical and corrupt elected officials and protecting consumers and seniors from all manner of predatory scams.

Then, during his 10 years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives, TOM fought to deliver for northern New Mexico's communities. He stood firmly against the Bush administration's tax cuts for the wealthy. He opposed the misguided invasion of Iraq. He called on Congress to rein in the civil liberties abuses in the PATRIOT Act.

TOM was first elected to serve our State in the U.S. Senate in the exact same year that I was first elected to Congress. It has been a privilege to sit in a front-row seat during this time while he led our State's congressional delegation.

I believe that all of us in this body can agree that there are few greater examples than TOM Udall in embodying

the best of what it means to be a Senator.

Over his two terms in this Chamber, TOM has showed us all how to act—to act with decency, to act with integrity; how to stay true to your principles but also how to find the deliberative compromises that have become all too rare in today's Senate. TOM knows that to get anything done, especially in this era of extremely polarized party politics, you need to be able to bring people together, to break bread, to have the patience to work through disagreements, and to focus on results, not politics.

That was perhaps best demonstrated in his ability to pass a landmark, bipartisan overhaul of the Toxic Substances Control Act—likely one of the greatest environmental law achievements in the last decade. TSCA is just about the most complicated piece of law that you can possibly imagine; however, the powers that it grants to the Environmental Protection Agency are some of the only things protecting us, standing between us and many harmful chemicals.

In the last decade, it became increasingly clear that the original law, which had passed back in the 1970s, was simply no longer effective and required significant reforms, but getting a new law passed had proved to be practically impossible for many Senators who had tried for years to get this done.

Because of all the major industry interests, disagreements from various groups, TSCA reform had become one of the many things that conventional wisdom simply said would never get done, especially in today's gridlocked Congress. But TOM did not take no for an answer. He took on the years-long, daunting challenge of convening an incredibly wide range of stakeholders to get the details right and successfully steered a new law all the way to final passage. I believe TOM Udall was successful in this precisely because of the way that he stands up for his principles with moral clarity.

At a time when our democracy has felt fragile, TOM has led the way in fighting the corrosive effects of dark money in our politics. He championed voting rights, and he called for rules reforms to make this body, to make this Senate work for “we the people” once again.

Through his role on the Foreign Relations Committee, TOM has held administrations from both parties accountable for responsibly exercising American power overseas.

He has been a steadfast champion and ally for Indian Country, fighting for water access, education, healthcare, and law enforcement resources for Tribal nations.

For years, TOM has called on us to finally confront the climate crisis that threatens New Mexico's land and water and, frankly, the future of our country and our planet. I have been so proud to partner with TOM over these last years to pass landmark protections for the

natural resources and public lands that we in New Mexico all treasure. Our children and future generations will see the legacy of TOM's conservation work for years to come.

Finally, it goes almost without saying, but I am confident that TOM's leaving the Senate will not mean leaving behind his lifetime commitment to service—in fact, far from it. Whatever his next chapter brings, I am certain that TOM will never stop looking for ways to help the people of New Mexico, although I do hope he will find the time to get outside, to spend time in a remote mountain pass from time to time or on a fast flowing river.

It has truly been the honor of a lifetime to serve alongside Senator UDALL for these last 12 years and to fight together to deliver resources and results for New Mexicans.

Thank you, TOM, for everything that you have taught me and for everything that you and Jill have done for New Mexicans and for Americans. Julie and I certainly wish you the best in this next chapter in your life, and it has truly been my honor.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I stand today to give tribute to my friend and colleague, the senior Senator from New Mexico, TOM Udall, who was assigned to be my mentor when I first arrived in the Senate nearly 10 years ago.

Over a series of meetings we had over breakfast, lunch, and in our offices, TOM mentored me and tutored me on the rules of the Senate. He took the time to explain the nuances of the filibuster and how the Senate has deviated from the rule as it was originally designed. The concept is not a familiar one, nor is it intuitive, and yet TOM was able to explain it to me in a way that was simple and easy to understand and helped me grasp the passion that he has for addressing that issue and for reforming the Senate for the better ever since then.

He had a way of doing it that didn't make anyone feel demeaned but made them, rather, more enthusiastic about making the Senate a better place in which to work, operate, and legislate.

I have no idea whether the person who assigned TOM as my mentor knew that TOM and I were related, that we are second cousins, that his grandmother and my grandfather were brother and sister, or that my grandmother on the other side of the family was his U.S. history teacher at James Fenimore Cooper Intermediate and Junior High, but our paths seemed destined to cross.

I didn't know TOM well growing up, although I knew his father Stewart, and I knew his Uncle Morris. TOM was already off to fame and stardom by the time I came along, but I knew his family long before I got to know him. In many ways, they saved the best for last.

Even though I got to know your dad and your Uncle Morris before I got to



know you, I tremendously enjoyed getting to work with you. You and I come from similar parts of the country, from some of the same ancestral pioneer stock, and we have very different ideas. Yet TOM Udall has always been someone with whom I have been able to communicate freely and frankly and from whom I have always heard positive, uplifting communication, even when we disagree, which happens from time to time.

Thank you so much for your service. It has been a pleasure getting to work with you as a colleague. I wish you and Jill the very best success and happiness in your future endeavors.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, Senator UDALL and I came here in the same class 12 years ago. It is hard to believe that 12 years have passed. How can that happen so quickly? We have seen the Senate in various chapters as it sought to address the big challenges facing America.

Colleagues have already noted TOM's intense advocacy for the wildlands of the West and the poetry that he brought to it in his speech today with Mr. Stegner's reflections on the majesty and importance of the wildlands of the West and all of his efforts to protect those lands.

Colleagues have mentioned how, when folks thought it couldn't be done, he dived into this partnership with Senator Vitter to drive the Lautenberg Toxic Substances Act and got it accomplished through months and months of intense negotiations.

He cares about the function of this body and has shared with us idea after idea on how we might make it work better—ideas that we should still work to consider in the months and years ahead.

As he thought about protection of lands, he thought about protection of the oceans and the role of plastics in the oceans. He spearheaded efforts for us to reconsider how we produce so much plastic waste and where it ends up and the damage that it does—a vision that others will have to carry the baton on after his departure.

He has stood up fiercely for the constitutional vision of a nation and a government of, by, and for the people, that money is not speech, and that corporations are not people.

TOM, thank you. Thank you for fighting for the vision of our Constitution, for a government that can and will take on the issues facing us. We will miss you. I personally hope that you will have a major role in continuing to advance the protection of those wildlands in the West in the near future. All my best, and take care in your next chapter.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, just a little reflection on TOM Udall and working together on the Indian Af-

fairs Committee that I chaired, and he was the ranking member. I will tell you that I will miss my friend TOM Udall.

Bobbi and I will miss your life partner Jill as well. We are so grateful for your friendship and your leadership in this body.

When Senator UDALL started today on the floor, he mentioned that he was a son of the West and mentioned that it is something that runs in the family. Madam President, TOM's father, Stewart Udall, was Secretary of the Interior of the United States. If you go to the Interior Department office, you will see it is the Udall name on the building because of this ongoing commitment and love that the Senator has spoken about today.

What many don't know is the relationship between Wyoming and the Udall family. It was Stewart Udall, Secretary of the Interior, who came to Wyoming with a young President a number of years ago. That President was John F. Kennedy. It was September of 1963.

I went back to the archives at the University of Wyoming and found photos of TOM's dad and the President at the time, John Kennedy, and a number of Wyoming leaders at the time. I gave copies to TOM and to Jill to share the bond of our States.

It would surprise many, I think, in this body to know that I have a picture, actually, of John Kennedy hanging in my office up in the Dirksen Office Building—John Kennedy addressing the crowd at the University of Wyoming Arena-Auditorium in September of 1963.

As TOM this morning talked about conservation, John Kennedy talked of conservation that very day that he gave that speech with your father on the stage, together so many years ago. At the time, John Kennedy talked of the living balance between man's actions and nature's reaction to it and the living balance that must exist.

So, today, I come and thank my friend for his stewardship, for his leadership, and for his friendship, and I say this with a great deal of appreciation and admiration and respect.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I rise today to honor someone whom I have had the good fortune of working with both in the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate. Senator UDALL and I spent a long time together, and I am very, very grateful.

I want to take a step back just for a moment and say that in American political history there are certain names that carry a legacy. There are the Roosevelts, a family of great means who, nonetheless, understood the deeply personal pain of the Great Depression and helped bring a nation through it. There are the Kennedys, a family that for generations has been near the center of American power and popular culture. And there are the Udalls.

Now, the Udalls have never been flashy. They might not be the equivalent of political royalty. You might find the Udalls more likely to be in cowboy boots and jeans than expensive suits, but they are a family that is deeply rooted in public service, protecting the people and the places of the West, and just being some of the kindest, hardest working, most decent folks you could ever meet, period.

Senator TOM Udall has certainly lived up to his family's legacy during his long career in public service. New Mexico is so fortunate to have been represented by him, and I feel so fortunate to have him as my friend.

TOM, it has been such a pleasure to work with you on so many different issues. You talk about the land, and I talk a lot about water. And even though you are not surrounded by the Great Lakes, as we are, you have been as passionate in working with us to protect our beautiful water, as you have with other natural resources. So thank you for protecting the funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Also, I thank him for ensuring that our community health centers receive full funding, for strengthening rural communities, and for improving services for our veterans.

I appreciate so much your leadership in the bipartisan efforts, and I was proud to support you and help on tax reform. I have been so impressed by your work on clean energy and on protecting the wild places that make our States so special, and, of course, your work on reforming the Senate and shining the light of day on money and politics.

I am so grateful for your strong leadership on the Indian Affairs Committee and your hard work and advocacy—so effective in advocating for our Nation's Tribes.

You have also set yourself apart through your work on Foreign Relations and on keeping our Nation safe. I will never forget our trip to Vietnam and South Korea last year. We were, over the Easter weekend, flying in Southeast Asia, and it was such a wonderful moment when Jill organized a Passover Seder for everyone on the plane—what a special moment on this bipartisan trip. It brought everybody together to focus on our common humanity and what we are each called to do, which is to serve others.

Whatever the future holds for you, I have no doubt that you will continue serving the people of New Mexico and this Nation, and I believe we have more than benefitted from your leadership. Public service, that is what Udalls do.

Senator UDALL, congratulations on your retirement. Thank you for a job well done, and so many best wishes to you and your life partner Jill and your entire family. You have been a real blessing not only to New Mexico but to our country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I just really want to thank Senator UDALL for his commitment to public service. When I think of a person of his talent, his expertise, and his effectiveness, he has devoted his entire life to public service to make New Mexico better, to make America better, and for global justice. I just really want to thank him for his many years of public service. I know that he has not finished his commitment to try to help our community, but we are going to miss him on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

I had a chance to work with Senator UDALL when he and I were in the House of Representatives, and we worked on so many issues—from the environment to justice issues, to integrity in the process to make sure our system of justice, our system of law, and our system of legislating meet the high expectations of our democracy. We know that we can do better to form a more perfect union. We are on that path, and we can do better. And thanks to Senator UDALL, we have done better, but we still have a road ahead of us.

So, you are an inspiration to all of us. We want you to know that. We love you. We greatly admire your service to this body and to our community. As has been said by others, we are not only going to miss your relationship on working with issues here; we are going to miss the friendship and seeing you on a more regular basis.

We know that your life partner Jill has been a steady supporter of what you have done. So on behalf of your colleagues in the U.S. Senate, we say thank you for a job well done. We are proud to have called you our friend and associate, and we will continue to work with you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I had the privilege of knowing TOM UDALL's uncle when I served in the House of Representatives. He was not only a great leader, but he was a funny man. I have repeated some of his lines and jokes so often. I don't even give him credit anymore. I hope his family and his memory will forgive me.

I have often repeated his prognosis for politicians. Morris Udall said: Once you get politics in your bloodstream, only embalming fluid will replace it. I have often thought of what drives us, the men and women of the Senate and the House, to continue to engage in this life's work of politics, with all the cost that it incurs in our lives. Clearly, we are driven by something more than just comfort.

To my friend, TOM UDALL, let me say I am glad you proved your uncle wrong. As much as I wish you were staying with us for a while longer, I know that you are not leaving public service. You never will. You are just leaving this chapter.

In the Udall family, public service is a noble tradition. Your uncle always served with honor in the House for

three decades. Your cousins—Mark Udall, MIKE LEE, and Gordon Smith—have all served in the Senate. Your father, Stewart Udall, answered President Kennedy's call for the best and brightest and served as President Kennedy's Secretary of the Interior.

I want to mention one footnote that should never be forgotten, particularly at this moment in history. When we watch the NFL and their dedication to the notion of Black Lives Matter, they should remember that over 50 years ago, it was your father, as Secretary of the Interior, who said to the NFL football team that was using RFK Stadium that they had to integrate and bring in their first Black player or he wasn't going to renew their Federal lease on that premises. He changed, overnight, the fate of that Washington football franchise when it came to the issue of race. That shows the kind of leadership which 50 years later looked so visionary.

But when it comes to preserving America's national treasures in the 20th century, the Udall name ranks right up there with Teddy Roosevelt. Roosevelt was a giant of conservation. He believed that we have a moral obligation to preserve our planet and the treasures of it for future generations.

I have no doubt that your father and your mother would be proud of your service in the Senate. You have carried on this legacy with such perfection by preserving America's irreplaceable national treasures. I have vivid memories of two majestic national monuments that are in Utah—Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante. President Obama showed real leadership in creating those monuments, and you have led the fight to preserve them through the current administration.

The passion with which you spoke about the history and importance of these treasures is something I will never forget. I was proud to cosponsor your proposal, the ANTIQUITIES Act, to make clear that only Congress can alter the list of protected national monuments. Thank goodness we have public servants like TOM UDALL, who is willing to fight to preserve a piece of this world so that future generations can see it as God created it. Your "30 by 30 Resolution," which you cosponsored with Senator BENNET of Colorado, is another example of creative, innovative Udall "conservationism."

Your efforts to preserve America's most sacred treasures do not end with open spaces and a healthy environment. You have also been a brave and tireless champion of the need to preserve the fundamentals of our democracy. Along with your efforts to protect national monuments, you also led to preserve the delicate balance of powers envisioned by our Founders. You were the lead sponsor in this Chamber in the For the People Act to protect voting rights, strengthening government ethics, and changing the way congressional campaigns are funded—a bill that I have built on myself to try to protect our body politic.

Our goals were always the same: to break the grip of special interests on our politics and government while making it more affordable for men and women with good ideas but without massive wealth to run for Congress. These last years have shown us how fragile our democracy can be and how much work we have to do to restore people's faith in government.

I want to point out one particular bill—TSCA. Tom, I will never forget what you did with that. I don't know how many months—maybe even years—that you weathered on despite opposition, not only from the other side of the aisle but sometimes from our side of the aisle, to get this issue into perspective. There were chemicals that were being put into things as basic as furniture that American families had no idea would be dangerous.

I have never forgotten this image. You told this story on the floor. To think that that cushion on your couch is treated with some chemical that could be harmful to individuals and that every time you, as a father, sat down on that couch and pulled that baby close to you, you could have been spraying chemicals in that baby's face. I thought about that ever since you gave that speech and how much work you did to make sure that we remedy that wrong and that we gave notification and clearance before these chemicals were being used in products that American families didn't even know about. I gave you my word that I would push hard with you on that. I was just one of the soldiers in the back of the ranks, but I was proud of every moment of it.

I wish you and your wife Jill a special happiness in the next chapter. Jill, of course, is originally a native of St. Louis, and I grew up across the river. We had many fun times talking about her youth and reminiscing about mutual friends. She is just an exceptional person herself, and you know it and I do too. To your daughter Amanda, I wish an equally happy and healthy future. As our friend John Lewis might say, may you continue to find ways to get into good trouble.

In this Senate, you have been the voice for so many people who had no voice. You have chosen to be an advocate for Native Americans. And if there is ever a cause which every single Member of the Senate and the House should take as their own, it is to bring justice to this group of people who were here before us and were not treated well by this government.

I will close now with a thought from one of their great leaders, Sitting Bull. In negotiations with the Federal Government, Sitting Bull advised: Let us put our minds together and see what future we can make for our children.

This is the spirit which TOM UDALL has brought to the U.S. Senate in every aspect of public service. It has been an honor to work with you, Tom. I wish you all the best because you are the best.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I know we are about to vote, and I will speak further at another time about Senator UDALL, but I just want to tell him what I told you—all of you—what I said to him when he finished speaking: In my 46 years here, it is one of the finest and most moving, heartfelt, honest speeches I have heard. I have also sent a note, I say to Senator UDALL, to Jill Udall to tell her how great you are, but I think she probably knew it. But I will speak further at another time.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to complete my brief remarks before the vote.

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

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I want to say a few words about leadership. When I think of the word “leadership,” I think of TOM UDALL.

Leaders are humble, not haughty. Leaders have the heart of a servant. They realize that our job is to serve, not to be served. Leaders have the courage to stay in step when everyone else is marching to the wrong tune. Leaders unite, not divide. They build bridges, not laws.

Leaders surround themselves with the very best people they can find. When the team does well, the leader gives the credit to the team. When the team falls short, the leader takes the blame.

The best leaders among us realize they don’t build themselves up by tearing other people down. Leaders are aspirational. They appeal to our better angels.

Camus—a Frenchman—used to say that leaders are purveyors of hope. Leaders seek to do what is right, not what is easy or expedient but what is right.

Leaders embrace the Golden Rule: Treat other people the way they want to be treated. The Golden Rule is in every major religion on the planet. He embodies it.

Leaders believe that we should pursue excellence in everything we do. If it isn’t perfect, let’s make it better. And when a leader knows that he or she is right, they just won’t give up. They don’t give up.

Those are the qualities that we all admire in leaders. To be totally honest, I fall short on a number of them. And I guess if we are all truthful, we would all say the same thing.

He doesn’t fall short on any of them. TOM UDALL is the personification of what a leader should be and a friend as well.

I just want to say thanks to his parents for raising him, bringing him into the world, and putting him on the right path, giving us a chance to serve with him.

I also thank Jill, his wife, for being just a terrific partner with him. When

we were stuck on TSCA—the Toxic Substance Control Act—she came to the hearings in the committee. He was no longer on the committee, but she came there, and everybody could see on her face that we better get this right or we were in trouble.

The reason we had to pass the Toxic Substance Control Act is that the Federal law that we passed a quarter century ago before didn’t work, and every other State stepped in and decided to have their own State version. It was a patchwork quilt. It just didn’t work. He pointed it out and made it happen, made a change, and I just will always be grateful for that.

The other thing I want to say is that he is a friend. I think if you talk to anybody here, they would say that he is a friend. I don’t care if you are a Republican or a Democrat; he is a friend.

My wife and I and our sons, Christopher and Ben, had the opportunity at the end of an Aspen Institute seminar in Tanzania, which was just an incredible experience, to stay for 4 or 5 days afterward and just travel throughout, go on a safari, and have a chance to see amazing things—amazing things. When it was all over, we went back to the airport in Tanzania, the Kilimanjaro airport, to catch a flight back to the States. I will never forget. Our son Ben, who is our younger son, said to his mom and dad and his older brother: That was the best vacation we have ever had.

We talk about things we share with one another, but that is one that is especially close to my heart.

Godspeed. God bless you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

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

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Nathan A. Simington, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2019.

Mitch McConnell, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Joni Ernst, John Barrasso, Tim Scott, Lamar Alexander, Pat Roberts, Kevin Cramer, Shelley Moore Capito, Lindsey Graham, John Thune, Marco Rubio, Mike Crapo, Todd Young, Thom Tillis, Marsha Blackburn, Steve Daines.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Nathan A. Simington, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of

five years from July 1, 2019, shall be brought it a close?

The yeas are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

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

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 255 Ex.]

#### YEAS—49

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

#### NAYS—47

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

#### NOT VOTING—4

Harris	Perdue
Loeffler	Rounds

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 47.

The motion is agreed to.

#### RECESS

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

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:48 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. CAPITO).

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

#### FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. GARDNER. Madam President, thank you to the people of Colorado for this incredible honor that you have lent to me these last 6 years to serve you in the U.S. Senate.

Thank you to my family—Jaime, Alyson, Caitlyn, Thatcher, to Mom and Dad and Lisa—who supported me in this last decade of service with your love and sacrifice, through missed ball games and lost teeth, school concerts and junior high dances, sore throats and first moments.

Thank you to my incredible staff, many in the Chamber today, who are in Colorado and Washington, who made so many great things happen and whose difference will be felt for generations to come. You leave a mark on the country far beyond the etching of a signature on a desk on the floor.

Thank you to my colleagues and to Senator BENNET for the honor of serving along your side and for your commitment to our Nation—and to the Capitol Police, the staff, to the support staff in the Senate who make it all possible.

But above all, and most importantly, thank you to this great and extraordinary Nation for all that it means and represents—the hope and optimism that for over two centuries has led people around the globe to give up everything they have just to be here; to be a part of this Nation, to then turn around and fight for it through political strife and pandemics; to go to war to save the Union; to know how lucky and blessed that we are that out of all of the billions of people through the thousands of years of human history, we have had the privilege of being here in this place at this point to be a part of it.

There has been a lot of coverage in the news lately about how the pollsters got it wrong. But one thing they seem to get right—and it won't come as a shock to my colleagues on the floor: Congress is about as popular as a Rocky Mountain oyster in a bullpen.

We have been, together, able to do many good things, and I hope that we can use those successes to drive even more successes and show the American people that faith in this institution is actually well deserved.

Over the last 6 years I have worked hard to pass the first-ever mandatory sanctions on Kim Jong Un and North Korea to denuclearize that regime. It was an honor to work with Senator MENENDEZ throughout this process.

Senator MARKEY and I led the passage of the first-ever comprehensive strategy for a free and open Indo-Pacific, the Asia Reassurance Initiative.

GARY PETERS, along with LAMAR ALEXANDER and me, led the reauthorization of the America Competes legislation to keep the United States competitive in science and engineering, to get more women and minorities into the STEM fields, and to advance our scientific research and discoveries.

The 988 suicide prevention bill that TAMMY BALDWIN and I were able to pass into law represents the first bill in American history to pass the Senate and House unanimously with LGBTQ-specific language. This bill will save lives.

I was honored to help move the Bureau of Land Management headquarters to Colorado and to finally get funding for the construction of the Arkansas Valley Conduit, and I helped lead the passage of legislation to complete our VA hospital in Colorado, to advance our cybersecurity, and to foster our relationships with Taiwan, South Korea, and beyond.

And it was an honor of my time in the Senate to work with LAMAR and Senators MANCHIN, CANTWELL, HEINRICH, WARNER, KING, PORTMAN, DAINES, and BURR on the Great American Outdoors Act, the holy grail of conservation legislation.

In my first remarks on the Senate floor, I spoke about how no matter where across Colorado's four corners that you live—or across this great Nation—we all hope for the same thing for our children: to live in a loving home that values every citizen; that they learn the value of hard work and perseverance; where hard work is met with merited reward; that they find a nation of liberty and freedom that they help make a little bit more free and a little bit more perfect. All of us here in the Senate, the American people—all of us—are responsible for the starting point that we hand off to the next generation, and we have a moral obligation to make it the best starting point possible.

The accomplishments that we have had together truly have helped create more opportunity for the next generation, and the work that we continue to do to get through this pandemic together will ensure that the next generation can indeed take advantage of those accomplishments and that the starting point for them is better than the generation past despite the struggles of today. You know, in Sunday school we learned an important lesson about this—that struggles and tribulation produce perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

And since that very first speech that I gave on the Senate floor, I have come to recognize something that all of us—that everyone here—has undoubtedly experienced—that our service to country is filled with moment after moment that gives us that lump in the throat, that brings a tear to our eyes, that fills our hearts with wonder for this Nation.

Perhaps it happened to you when seeing the majesty of the United States Capitol brightly shining in all its glory on a crisp State of the Union Address night or maybe when we hear the passion in the voices of our colleagues as they tell the story of life and struggle and hope for the future. For me, these moments happen every day, and I am sure they do for you as well—just part of the wonder of this Nation and its Capitol.

It was late at night for me nearly 10 years ago when I was leaving the Capitol building. I had walked through the Hall of Columns, and I heard some voices ahead near the door that I was heading toward. When I turned into the

corridor, I saw a Capitol tour guide pointing at a phrase that was painted on the wall. I looked at it and read it too. It was William Jennings Bryan, and painted on the wall were these words: “Our government, conceived in freedom and purchased with blood, can be preserved only by constant vigilance.”

I looked at the group reading it, and there in the center of them all was a young veteran in a wheelchair with bandages around his knees where his legs used to be. The gravity of this place, that moment, and the duty that we owe to this Nation struck hard.

As I walked home, I kept thinking about it—about those words, about that moment, about that veteran, about this Nation and our responsibility. I thought about how that wall was painted with that phrase, but there are others that are blank and empty, spaces that have been left empty so that future generations can fill them in with their history—with new portraits and new phrases and new moments. But no matter the moment in time or the point in history, it is the same patriotic responsibility that we owe to this Chamber—to defend and serve our Nation, her Constitution, and the American people.

George Washington in his Farewell Address said that the name “American” must always exalt the just pride of patriotism. He spoke of our Constitution and how it must be sacredly maintained and that virtue and wisdom must stamp every act. And despite the differences over policy and politics, it is our Union that ought to be considered as a main prop of our liberty, and that love of the one ought to endear us to the preservation of the other.

I believe that is what LAMAR ALEXANDER very eloquently spoke about on this very floor in his farewell just days ago. It is our country and the unity of nation that, despite our differences, will help preserve and will preserve our liberty.

Washington offered his advice in his farewell as an old and affectionate friend—a friend who recognized our obligation to create a better starting point for every new generation.

But how do we heed this advice in a world of viral social media, click bait, and sound bites?

Colorado Senator Bill Armstrong once said that while he was firm in his principles, he was flexible on the details. We all come to this place because of our core values and beliefs about this Nation. Those principles make us who we are. They drive our actions. They drive our debates. But, today, it seems as though we live in a world where tactics are elevated to the same status and importance as principles, and staying true to principle means that the tactics used to achieve that principle are elevated to the same importance as the principle itself. It is always my way or the highway. Senator Armstrong's flexible details would now be derided as violations of principle.

We cannot govern when every tactic and detail is elevated to the level of principle. There is no compromise with this approach. We cannot find ways to bring people together for that unity of nation of which Washington spoke when the test for principles becomes so impossible to pass that only the very factions that he warned against can prevail.

To my staff I often talk about this challenge as being one of the pillar and the paint. The pillars in a building are more than just ornamental. They are structurally necessary to the building itself. The pillars are our principles. They make us who we are. But the paint color—the details—we can figure that out together.

We can respect the pillar and find agreement on the paint. We can hold people's principles in place, respecting those core beliefs that make you who you are, while finding ways to work together to find solutions to common challenges. That is how we pass the test of unity that brings people together, respecting principles while achieving solutions, because not every detail is a principle, and not every principle is a detail, and we need a legislative body that can recognize this. By doing so, we will follow through on the advice of Washington and preserve our liberty with unity of nation.

Too many people have given up on the institutions of their government, and it is my hope that the American people will find this pillar-and-paint approach to be one that can make a difference because if they believe it—they believe that it will—then the American people will make sure their values are reflected in the representatives they elect.

Several years ago, I had the honor of meeting a man named Donald Stratton. He came to my office accompanied by his family and the family of a sailor named Loren Bruner and the family of another sailor, Joe George.

They were looking forward to yet another commemoration of the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941—79 years ago yesterday. Both Donald Stratton and Loren Bruno were on the USS *Arizona* when it was attacked. Donald Stratton was on one of the ship's towers. He was surrounded by flame and surely believed that he would perish, when out of the chaos of that morning came a rope thrown by a yet-unknown-to-him sailor by the name of Joe George, who was aboard the USS *Vestal*, which was moored next to the USS *Arizona*. This rope saved Donald Stratton's life and several other shipmates.

No one knew their lifeline was thrown to them by Joe George until years later. Once they learned who it was, they spent the rest of their lives fighting to get Joe George honored and recognized by the Navy.

I was honored to be a part of that effort, and, finally, on December 7, 2017, led by Donald Stratton and the *Arizona*'s remaining few, Joe George re-

ceived the Bronze Star with "V" device for valor aboard the USS *Arizona* Memorial, with Donald Stratton attending one last time. He was fighting for this country and his countrymen to the very end.

When I asked him how he did it, how he survived the attack and those flames and got back into the fight for this Nation, he chuckled, he laughed, and he gave me an answer that I truly didn't see coming at all. He said: "Well, Cory, everybody has to be somewhere."

Everybody has to be somewhere. He is right. We are here in the U.S. Senate. Most of you will still be here next Congress. Don't waste this opportunity to be who this Nation needs you to be at this moment of great challenge, to recognize the difference between the paint and the pillar, to know the difference between a principle and a tactic, where to take a stand and where to stand together, to bring a nation together in unity for the preservation of liberty, to recognize that to be American carries with it the greatness of a nation forged by fight and fire, tempered by wisdom, and made great by men, like Donald Stratton, who recognized that their duty and their time didn't just end with the last calling of the roll. Everybody has to be somewhere. Make it count for this Nation that you are here.

If you go into any of my offices, you will see on the wall my mission statement, and it ends with this:

We represent a State where the words to "America the Beautiful" were written—we will always look up to the Rocky Mountain horizon in the work that we do and remind ourselves that only through our actions will God continue to shed his grace on our great nation.

Ours is a Nation founded on the optimism that no generation waits for the next to be told where to go. It is the great American horizon that compels us to continue to reach ahead, to rise, to achieve, and to believe in America.

Ten years ago I sat on the floor of the United States House of Representatives as we prepared—some of my colleagues here with me—to be sworn into the 112th Congress. I watched with our daughter Alyson patiently sitting by my side as the peaceful transition of power took place—the hallmark of our Republic. As the most powerful constitutionally prescribed Member of the Congress, the Speaker of the House gave the gavel to a newly elected Speaker without gunshot or war, peacefully transitioning to a new majority.

Today, I speak on the Senate floor with a heart of gratitude. As I leave, with a new Congress set to begin, I go home not because of or due to the threat of violence or revolution but because of the same constitutional governance that has given this country over two centuries of strength and certainty—a jewel among nations, exceptionally blessed by God.

It has been a privilege to serve with you for this country. We owe every

man, woman, and child that lives here our commitment to them to not pass on to the next generation a nation that is in decline or retreat but a nation that rises, a nation that reminds itself that ours is a country worth fighting for, a nation that believes in itself, because when you believe in America, when you believe in this country, the world has not seen anything yet.

Thank you to my colleagues. Thank you for the honor of serving with you.

And, Madam President, this kid from Yuma yields the floor.

(Applause. Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, I want to take just a few minutes to speak about my colleague from Colorado, Senator CORY Gardner—a kid from Yuma, as he described himself a minute ago—and to recognize the work that we have done for our State together in a bipartisan way.

Over the past 6 years, one of the most common and sometimes surprising questions I have gotten from reporters and constituents was: How is your relationship with Senator GARDNER? Can you work together with Senator GARDNER?

It is really an innocent question, but I have come to think about it as a reflection of the sad state of our politics and the Senate for the moment, in particular. Behind the question is the assumption that because CORY is a Republican and I am a Democrat we, somehow, can't work together for the benefit of our State. That hasn't been the case, far from it.

Sometimes he would say and sometimes I would say that we felt like there were times when we were working together better than States that were represented by two people from the same political party.

In this Congress, Colorado is 1 of just 10 States that isn't represented by Senators from the same party. Think about that—just 1 of 10 States with a split caucus in this body, just 10 out of 50. You would think it would be a lot higher, given how evenly divided we are as a country.

A lot has been written about the divide in our country today, and one of the divides is the rural-urban divide in America, which reporters like to talk about. In our delegation, CORY and I have tried to bridge that and, I have to say, it has helped a lot that CORY was born and raised in Yuma, CO, a town on the Eastern Plains with a population of 3,500 people, roughly. It is the place where CORY grew up, working in his parents' implement dealership—the red tractors, not the green tractors—where community tradition and ties to the land, like a lot of places in our State, run very, very deep; a place where rush hour means getting behind a tractor.

It is a beautiful place, and CORY was kind enough to invite me to Yuma after he was elected. During that visit we made a commitment to work together despite our political differences,

which we certainly have, and that is exactly what we have tried to do over the past 6 years. We worked together on legislation to ban Members of Congress from becoming lobbyists. I tell my colleagues today that I think there would be no bill we could pass that would do more to lift the reputation of this body than that one. Over half the people who leave here don't retire but become lobbyists. It was hard to find somebody to cosponsor that legislation. CORY saw the benefit of it, and we have been fighting for it ever since.

We wrote bipartisan legislation to prevent government shutdowns; to make our energy grid more resilient; to secure funding, as CORY mentioned, for the Arkansas Valley Conduit, a critical water project that Washington has been promising Colorado since John F. Kennedy came to Pueblo, when he was President.

We fought to hold the VA accountable to care for our veterans across the Rocky Mountain region. With CORY's leadership, we fought to keep the U.S. Space Command in Colorado. We partnered to fund critical improvements to our infrastructure, from I-25 along the Front Range to the South-west Chief.

And just last week, Senator COLLINS, 127 years after Colorado became the first State to grant women the vote by popular referendum and 100 years after ratification of the 19th Amendment, the Senate passed our bill to install America's first outdoor monument honoring the women's suffrage movement here in Washington, DC.

That was typical of the legislation that we carried together, because the idea actually came from Fort Collins, CO. It didn't come from Washington, DC. So many of the best ideas that we worked on together came from Colorado. CORY is a student of Colorado history and the country's history, and he understands the significance of a bill like that.

Over the years we have worked together late into the night to help communities across our State get back on their feet after devastating floods, wildfires, the Gold King Mine spill of 2015, and now the COVID-19 pandemic, where CORY's leadership was absolutely essential.

I could go on all afternoon.

The point is, even though CORY and I have had plenty of differences over the years, there is a real record of bipartisan accomplishment for our State, and one of the reasons for that is because, whatever our differences on policy, I have never for a moment doubted CORY's commitment to serving the interests of Colorado and his genuine appreciation for what makes us the best State in America.

In a lot of ways, CORY has embodied many of our State's best qualities. We are a young and restless State, and CORY has represented it always with energy and with drive. Agree with him or not, you can't say he hasn't worked hard every single second that he has been here.

You have probably also heard that Colorado has 300 days of sunshine a

year. As it turns out, so does CORY Gardner. It is probably why my staff always told me to smile more at our events together. He has been a consistent source of warmth and optimism in a body desperate for both. He has brought a lot more of that to the Chamber than I have, and I have been trying to make up for it now that he won't be here this year.

All of that is to say that I have been extremely grateful for the opportunity to work with Senator GARDNER over the past 6 years to do a lot of work together for our State.

On a personal level, I would like to say to his family that I also want to say how much I appreciated the consistent kindness CORY and Jaime have shown to me and my family, even at moments that have been difficult ones for them.

My staff are also deeply grateful for the close collaboration with CORY's team over the years, and I want to thank them for their extraordinary work.

I know there are a lot of folks today who have things to say about my colleague from Colorado. So let me just end with this. Serving in this body, as he said, is an enormous privilege, but as everyone here knows, it does not come without a cost, especially for a parent with young children. I have watched CORY, as his kids have begun to grow up, put his family first at all times and our State a close second behind them. To watch him get on a plane, as I did this week, with his family and the care and attention he paid them is a reminder to me—and has been over the last 10 years—of what is really most important.

I will miss our work together, but I suspect Senator GARDNER is not done with his contribution to the country, to the State of Colorado, and to his community, and I look forward to continuing our work together in whatever capacity he ends up choosing to serve. I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, CORY Gardner and I first met in 2011, when he became the first alumnus of the United States Senate Youth Program to be sworn into the House of Representatives. As the first Senate Youth Program delegate elected to the U.S. Senate, I felt an immediate connection to this new Member of Congress from Colorado. One year, both of us had the privilege of addressing the student delegates to this wonderful program that had made such a difference in the lives of both of us.

Since he joined the Senate 6 years ago, CORY has demonstrated his leadership on many issues which we have heard described today. His upbeat personality and his commitment to compromise, to solutions, and to bipartisanship have had a positive influence on this Chamber. As the renowned columnist George Will once called CORY, he is "a human beam of sunshine." I am sure that is the phrase that was going through the mind of his colleague from Colorado.

His approach to legislating has indeed been enlightening, but it has been his positive approach to every problem that we encounter, his upbeat personality, his wonderful smiles, and his problem-solving devotion to America and to his State that have distinguished him.

CORY's landmark achievement, which he discussed today, is the Great American Outdoors Act. I was proud to cosponsor his legislation. This historic bill, at long last, fully and permanently funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund and provides funding to address significant parts of the multi-billion-dollar national parks maintenance backlog. The Great American Outdoors Act will help to ensure that both current and future generations can enjoy the pristine beauty of our natural treasures in Colorado, in the great State of Maine, and throughout our country. CORY's hard work to bridge the partisan divide and secure support from both sides of the aisle leave a lasting legacy that the American people will cherish. I would note that he never gave up in his pursuit of seeing this landmark legislation signed into law.

That is typical of the approach that CORY takes. He doesn't give up. He persists. But he does so in such a delightful way—always in search of a solution—that it is very difficult for his colleagues to ever say no to him.

CORY's commitment to environmental stewardship extends from the great outdoors to the frontier of technology to advance the development and deployment of energy from renewable, sustainable, and clean energy sources.

CORY, as was mentioned by Senator BENNET, has also been a champion for those who have served our Nation in uniform. In 2017, a troubling GAO report revealed an unacceptable trend of VA facilities failing to report healthcare providers who made major medical errors to the boards responsible for tracking dangerous practitioners, or, in some cases, revoking or suspending their licenses. As a result, these practitioners can go into private practice from their work at the VA or simply move across State lines without disclosing prior performance problems to either patients or State regulators.

To solve this serious problem, CORY introduced the Department of Veterans Affairs Provider Accountability Act. His bill, which passed the Senate unanimously, helps to protect patients by requiring the VA to disclose major errors committed by its medical providers.

Time and again, I have seen CORY put into practice the values that the Senate Youth Program imparts to high school students—a deep respect for our enduring system of government, a dedication to public service, and a willingness to work in a bipartisan spirit to get the job done.



It has been such an honor and a great joy to serve with CORY in the U.S. Senate. I am certain he will continue to serve his State and his country, and I wish him and his family all the best. Thank you, CORY, for all you have done.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, well, some farewell speeches are different than others. I think this farewell speech should very much be just a momentary pause for us to think about what comes next.

CORY Gardner is incredibly accomplished. He has been good for the Senate. He has been great with his colleagues, and he has been, beyond that, even more constantly focused on Colorado.

He has become, for me, a valued personal friend. Our families, for whatever reason, from almost the first time we spent any time together, sort of gravitated toward each other and continued to do things together. And why not? Jaime is great. CORY is that beam of sunshine that Senator BENNET and Senator COLLINS both have talked about, 365 days a year. He is optimistic. He is determined. He is realistic. Those are all three pretty doggone good characteristics for a successful legislator. He also continues to figure out, OK, that didn't work and what can we do that makes that work in some other way, to be determined to get the job done, to be realistic about how an obstacle can be in the way and understand how to come together and make all those things work.

Now, Senator COLLINS, particularly, mentioned that long list of truly great legislative fights that CORY has successfully led in. One of them we worked together on has been the effort to be sure that people who weren't able to get broadband—people in rural areas and people in urban areas who maybe had broadband but couldn't afford it. By the way, I think that is the next big fight about broadband. It is not just accessibility but also, even though it may be running right by where you live, how do we work in ways that assure you are part of it.

In little towns like I grew up in or CORY grew up in, it is the difference in whether you can compete or not. We have seen that so dramatically in the last few months, where kids going to school without the ability to have that access were dramatically hampered by that. People who couldn't use broadband for mental health or telehealth and people who just couldn't live where they prefer to live because they didn't have the connectedness they need to have are hampered by that. That is a fight that CORY has been in the middle of, and he understood it only maybe as you would understand it if half of your State is vertical and the other half is horizontal. You have got to figure out how to get the connectedness you would like to have.

The second century of the National Park System, one of the truly great American miracles, will be dramatically different than it would have been otherwise because of the legislation that CORY led on. In thinking about the future of that system and thinking about the future of the country, I remember one of the first stories I heard CORY tell, after he got here, in a small group of people. I think his son Thatcher was headed out the door that he wasn't supposed to be going out, and CORY said: That reminds me of one of my speeches late in the campaign. I was done. I thought we were all done. I look around, and Thatcher's shoes are still on the platform, even though Thatcher shouldn't have ever been on the platform.

And as CORY goes back to pick up Thatcher's shoes, he holds them up and says: This is why I am running. This is why I am running—for this little pair of shoes and all the other pairs of shoes that represent the future.

I think CORY has done an incredible job here focusing on not just the present but the future. Frankly, as Senator BENNET said, I am personally interested in seeing what comes next in the future of a person and a family who have so much to offer and are willing to offer it in service to others.

This is a day that I am ready to look and see what the next chapter of the Gardner story looks like and I think it is going to be optimistic and I think CORY will be smiling all the way through it.

I yield the floor.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### NOMINATION OF NATHAN A. SIMINGTON

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I come to the floor today to urge my colleagues to vote against the nomination of Nathan Simington to be a member of the Federal Communications Commission.

We definitely want the FCC to focus on commonsense consumer protections, universal broadband, and the survival of our news and local journalism industry as it faces unbelievable and unfair competition and practices by the tech sector, and we also want to make sure that the next President of the United States also gets to choose their member and representation to the FCC.

The Senate has a tradition of confirming Commission nominees in pairs to ensure equality on both sides of the aisle. I think moving this nominee without that democratic paring is contrary to what we have usually operated under in good governance.

Every Member of this body should be concerned about setting a precedent

and what it will mean in the future if we don't have essential consumer protections and oversight in this important institution.

We need high-quality, affordable broadband for the underserved and the unserved. That includes Tribal country.

We need to make sure that we are working hard as a result of the pandemic and for people to understand that broadband is now essential to our healthcare, to being able to work, and certainly to the education of our children. According to the AP, 16 percent of families with children have no access to broadband, and we need to make sure that all students have the tools for distance learning.

We need to make sure that Washingtonians have access to broadband for healthcare centers and clinics and to make sure that their initial contacts can be done online, just to help us in fighting the pandemic.

Especially, we need to preserve a free and open internet that is not divided into haves and have-nots.

The innovation economy is so important to my State, but it is important to the entire United States, and we need to have nominees who will fight for these policies, to get them implemented. That is why it is important that we look at FCC Commissioners.

Mr. Simington was before our Commerce Committee. We had another nominee whom the White House abruptly, unexpectedly pulled from its renomination—Commissioner O'Rielly—just days after the committee reported that nomination to the Senate, allegedly because he spoke his mind and because he did not agree with the President of the United States. Mr. Simington was nominated instead just a few weeks later, coming from NTIA, which asks the FCC to issue rules.

It raises questions in my mind about the White House's choice in Mr. Simington, particularly given these issues as it relates to the FCC and key responsibilities. I have questions about his neutrality and independence on issues before the Commission and about whether he aggressively and actively sought the media attention to personally and explicitly direct pressure onto the FCC. This involvement might sound insignificant or just partisan to some, but it is so important for the FCC to continue to play an important and independent role from the President of the United States.

So I hope we will not pass the Simington nomination. But I am emphasizing to my colleagues that the President will deserve his nominee as well, and I hope our colleagues will move quickly to confirm them once they are nominated.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Madam President, I also wanted to take a couple of minutes to discuss action that all of us have been working on on a bipartisan and bicameral basis, and that is the action that has now resulted in the National Defense Authorization Act which we will be taking up

but which is certainly being considered in the House of Representatives today.

The reason this is so important to emphasize today is that in this legislation will be the Coast Guard bill and recognition of the fact that we truly are an Arctic nation.

Well, some of you may have said: Well, I think we already got geography; we knew we were an Arctic nation. But this is the first time that we will be authorizing a fleet of six icebreakers for the United States of America.

Some people think: Well, why is that important? What is so important about icebreakers? Well, certainly to the Northwest Passage and the ability to move cargo and to move people and to new transportation routes, it is very important.

When you look at where we are in the United States of America with an icebreaking fleet, we don't compete with other nations that have been able to access and transverse those waterways because they have somebody who can clean the waterway and make it safe and secure. That is why we need, in the United States, to have an icebreaking fleet beyond the capacity we have today, which is two vessels but basically not the full capacity of those two vessels.

This is why it is so important for us to put the money and investment into a program to get us icebreakers so that we, too, can look at this northern waterway and passage and say to the United States of America and to the world community: Yes, we will be in the Arctic as well.

My colleagues on both sides of the aisle realize that this is a very bipartisan issue, that it is a national security issue, and that it is an environmental issue. It is about us and making sure that we communicate.

I have also supported additional language about an Arctic shipping Federal advisory committee. A committee made up of representatives from Federal agencies, including the Coast Guard and the Department of Defense, the Secretary of Transportation, and others would be part of a process to ensure that our Arctic efforts are better coordinated and impactful.

So I hope that my colleagues will look favorably on this legislation.

We all know how important the Coast Guard is to our Nation and an example of that icebreaking capacity, but there are other aspects of this Coast Guard bill that we are also proud of—making sure that it works more robustly with fishermen on fishing safety; doing more to examine the impacts of tar sands; making sure that our orca population is saved from noise impact and further reducing that impact on our orca population; and instituting new reforms within the Coast Guard to really help empower women, to make significant investment in the 40 percent of the workforce of the Coast Guard that are women and to make sure they have what they need—vital childcare opportunities for Coast

Guard families—and to make sure there is zero tolerance in the approach for any kind of sexual assault or sexual harassment.

So with these improvements over all, I would like to thank Chairman WICKER, Senator SULLIVAN, and Senator MARKEY for working on all of these issues. I want to thank Senator MURKOWSKI, as I said, for the Arctic Shipping Federal Advisory Committee and many people who are helping us get to this point, to say not only do we recognize geographically we are an Arctic nation, but we are going to do something about it by making sure we have the capacity on this waterway to be heard and seen and to help the commerce that is going to emerge from the new developments in the Arctic.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, four different times in the last 4 months, we have had votes on this floor to talk about COVID relief. There is a real need to be able to give relief to a lot of people in my State, and, quite frankly, in States around the country.

There are individual items that need to be done that are unfinished. I think we need to actually finish them. We have this week and next week to finish the task at hand. We have 12 appropriations bills. We have a national defense authorization. But in my State, people want to know most what is going to happen with COVID relief. Where is that going to go?

Well, apparently, now we can actually have the debate. After the election was over, Speaker PELOSI announced that she was ready to actually negotiate the bill now that the election was finished. Well, great. Folks in my State have actually been waiting because four times in the last 4 months we brought up bills that were serious bills to be able to actually debate this out and to get the aid that is needed to be done, starting with additional money for distribution for vaccines.

The first vaccine will come on market by this Friday. It will be in arms by this weekend or at the latest, Monday, in my State, in Oklahoma.

As I visit with the people in my State who are in charge of the distribution, they have a terrific plan that they are engaged in to work with healthcare providers across the State to give them first access. For these folks who have been living in PPE for months and months and months, to now have the opportunity to get a vaccine will be a tremendous gift to them. It is incredibly important that this happen.

I do want to congratulate the folks in the science community, the folks who are at Operation Warp Speed in the White House, and so many other individuals who worked so incredibly hard to take a vaccine from first identification of the virus to a vaccine in 11 months. That is remarkable speed to get something done, though I have read recently that the New York Times is now putting out this quiet little accusation that the Trump administration didn't buy enough of the Pfizer vaccine, and the rest of the world is going to get it. The Times just conveniently leaves out that the administration actually purchased 700 million doses of the vaccine from multiple different manufacturers very early on, taking the appropriate risk to say that we don't know which one is going to be successful, so let's try to purchase from all of them, not knowing if six of them will be successful or if one of them will be successful. It was the right strategy then. It remains the right strategy.

In addition to the fact that the Pfizer vaccine is coming out first—which we are all very grateful for—it is 95 percent accurate as far as setting aside the virus. It is 100 percent effective against severe outbreaks of the virus. It is a remarkable vaccine, but it has to be stored at negative 70 degrees. There are very few places in my State and in many other States that have an ultracold freezer that maintains that. It is a great vaccine, but it is limited in the way that you can actually distribute it quickly.

There is a Moderna vaccine that is coming a week later that we will actually have twice as much of, but it doesn't require the same ultracold storage.

So this first round of vaccines will be coming to my State by this weekend, another round of vaccines from another manufacturer by next weekend, and by the end of this year—in just the next few weeks—we will have 20 million people who will get vaccinated.

That is a great start, but, clearly, there are another 300 million people to go. By the time that we get to the end of February, we will have 100 million people who will have been vaccinated, and that doesn't even count the additional vaccines that are coming online.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is a single-dose vaccine. It should be online in February. That is very significant to us because that will also provide us tens of millions of additional individuals who can be vaccinated. We could very well be completely vaccinated as a country by the time we get to this summer. We could be completely vaccinated with the most vulnerable in our population—everyone in our healthcare, every single nursing home, every single skilled nursing, every single assisted living, and all those with high-risk conditions like Parkinson's and Alzheimer's and individuals with diabetes and heart disease—those individuals could be completely vaccinated

by the time we get to February. That is just 2 months away. We are finally getting close.

But we do need some additional dollars set aside for the distribution to actually get to that point. We need additional dollars for testing. We have done 200 million tests on COVID-19. I have had several of those. Most everyone in this Chamber has had several. Most everyone across my State has had several to evaluate them. I always tested negative. I am grateful for that. There are many people who still continue to get that testing. We need to continue that.

We have individuals across my State and across all of our States who need access to the Paycheck Protection Program. This was a risk that we took in March to try an assistance for individuals in a completely different way, knowing that the unemployment assistance in all of our States is antiquated and would be overrun by individuals. There had to be another way to sustain individuals who would be unemployed and to sustain small businesses to not go out of business as we go through this.

What we created was something called the Paycheck Protection Program. I was honored to be a part of that small group who helped write this and dream it out. It was for small businesses and not-for-profits, and for the first time ever, included faith-based not-for-profits, knowing many of them are key safety nets in our communities across the country. We could not lose that safety net during the time of the pandemic.

I have had individuals who have asked me over and over again for two key things in the Paycheck Protection Program: No. 1, please make it clear how to get final forgiveness to close this out. There are literally millions of small businesses that have a paycheck protection loan. They want to get forgiven, but the process of going through forgiveness is so complicated they are struggling with closing that out. They want to get it done.

There is an easy way to do it that KEVIN CRAMER has actually coordinated and led in this body. Senator CRAMER's work has been remarkable and tenacious to help guide us to a simple solution to get to individuals and businesses that took out loans of \$150,000 or less, to get forgiveness for that in a simple process, in a single-page attestation to be able to do that. That needs to be included in whatever we are doing.

We need to have a second round for those businesses that are the hardest hit.

Let me tell you an example of that. I had a business leader of a small business in my State just yesterday, and this is part of his email. He said: It sounds like there is a chance for another relief bill. I hope that is true. We are expecting—our sales have fallen through the floor again. With the change in weather and rising case counts, we have lost over 50 percent

year over year, and I hear the same from many of my counterparts. It is highly likely we will have to go through another round of furloughs in January. Honestly, it would probably make sense now, but we are not going to do that to anyone through the holidays. We are hoping for some assistance to keep people on payroll and benefits. At worst case, if there is no relief for us, I hope there is additional unemployment coming so people aren't destitute. It may be April before we are able to support our business based on our own revenue.

These comments are not uncommon from many others I have received. They can make this and have a viable business but just not in this kind of environment right now.

What are we going to do about that? Well, I have recommended not only the attestation for forgiveness for small businesses but also a second round to allow those who have been through the small business Paycheck Protection Program to go through it again and get a second bite of that apple short term for the hardest hit businesses and also to allow some of those businesses that are legitimate small businesses to actually get a first shot.

Many people don't know that not-for-profits, including faith-based not-for-profits and small businesses, all got access to the Paycheck Protection Program if you were supported by donors or by a bank or credit union. But if your business was organized by private equity, and that was your original capital, you couldn't get access to the Paycheck Protection Program. So thousands and thousands of small businesses were out simply based on where they got their original capital from to open their business. That is not right.

When we have the second round of paycheck protection, we should at least allow some of those other small businesses to get a first round through this process. We need to continue what we are doing for not-for-profits.

Our safety nets are very clear in America. Our families are our first safety net; our second safety net is our not-for-profits; and our third safety net is government—State, local, and Federal. That second safety net that is out there that is so important in our communities, we need to do what we can to support them.

In the CARES Act, I helped put in a provision there that would give every American a \$300 deduction on their taxes above the line, even if they don't itemize their taxes. They can get a \$300 straight deduction from their taxes if they will give to a nonprofit. They can pick any nonprofit they want to give to—the arts community, the homeless community, those that are helping with mental health, those that are helping with food programs, churches, synagogues, mosques. They can choose any nonprofit they want to. If they give to a nonprofit, every single American gets a deduction up to \$300. That counts for this year. I would encourage

Americans to take advantage of that. Nonprofits around the country desperately need assistance right now.

What we have written into a proposal is to double that for next year for individuals, \$600, or for a couple filing jointly, \$1,200. You could write off your taxes completely, even if you don't itemize, if you would donate that amount to a not-for-profit.

What would cause that? Philosophically, for me, it is a couple of things. I believe in the power and strength and efficiencies of not-for-profits. In small towns around my State and around the country, there are local not-for-profits and churches and faith-based institutions, and they are doing the work to help the hurting and hungry and homeless. We should support them. They are in real need right now of our support.

There are groups all around our Nation that need people to step up and walk alongside them as they walk alongside the neediest in our communities. The best way we can do that is to incentivize that with taxes. We can either say we could have a larger tax piece here or encourage people to actually give locally. I think that is an efficient way to help people.

We need to step up, as my friend who had emailed me yesterday reminded me. If we can't get the paycheck protection extension done—and I hope we can—we need to make sure the unemployment extension is done because we are going to have more people on unemployment. We should really do both.

We can extend paycheck protections to protect those individuals in those businesses and secure them, but we also need to secure our unemployment assistance program. We have many folks with diabetes and other healthcare needs who can't return to work right now. They are not in a position where they can telework, and they need the opportunity to be sustained. Literally, their benefits are running out in days.

This is a moment we should extend that out for multiple more months to allow them the gap they need to get through the pandemic to be able to get a vaccine—which is coming soon—and then to get back to work as they have been dying to do.

We need to get liability protections. A lot of people have a lot of uncertainty, and they are worried about lawsuits coming down on them. They don't know how to manage around them.

I have letters from small businesses, large businesses, and university presidents in my State who are all saying the same thing: Help us just know what the rules of the game are going to be because there is litigation coming at us, and we don't know how to evaluate this because this has never been done before. Help us just know the rules of the road on liability.

That is not an unreasonable request for every university, large and small businesses across our Nation. Schools are going to need some additional help. That is based on just that child, no

matter where they attend—public, private, faith-based, charter, whatever it may be—it is a child whose parent is a taxpayer. Education is important, and they should all be treated the same.

Childcare issues are at the top of the list as well. Childcare facilities are out there in desperate need right now and are open and functioning. They can't have the worker or job ratio they used to have, but the costs are still the same. We need to get additional flexibility to our States. In my State—many entities within my State still have additional dollars left over from the CARES Act. So \$1.5 billion came to the State of Oklahoma through the CARES Act. That is an enormous amount of money. They are still working through to be able to handle it efficiently, how they are going to manage that. Thankfully, most towns in my State have had sales tax revenue that has gone up this year. That is not true for all of it, but for many of them, it has been. Their expenses have also gone up.

So the challenge at this point would be, how can we get the States maximum flexibility with the dollars they have to make sure they don't have to squander those funds quickly just to be able to get it done because the deadline to use them is December 31? More flexibility would be a good gift both to do wise spending and to be able to give them greater flexibility in the days ahead. That would be for States, counties, cities, and Tribes.

We should allow for the reprogramming of funds. Interestingly enough, the Paycheck Protection Program had about \$130 billion left over in it when it expired. We all gave it a lot of money not knowing how much would be needed for small businesses, but the vast majority of small businesses that could take it were able to take it. There are many, as I mentioned before, that are wanting to do a second round with it. The best way to do that is to reprogram the unused funds that are there. That would be more efficient. The Federal Reserve has unused funds in the hundreds of billions of dollars. We should cancel out those programs and reuse those funds. That is a wise use of funds to make sure we are not squandering American tax dollars.

Every single dollar that is spent on COVID-19 right now is debt money. So we should pay attention to all of those issues of debt money, knowing that we need to be careful with other people's money.

There are things that we need to do in the next 10 days here as well as to have conversations in private and in public, like this, to say: Let's get it done. Let's finish the tasks that we need to get done.

TRIBUTE TO CORY GARDNER

Madam President, I would like to take one moment of personal privilege.

About an hour ago, while sitting in this chair behind me, I had the opportunity to listen to a friend speak on the Senate floor for the last time, my friend CORY GARDNER.

CORY GARDNER and I came to the House of Representatives together in 2011. We became fast friends for his winning smile and his tenacious work ethic. He is a solid guy for whom I have great respect. We came to the Senate together at the same time as well. We served 4 years in the House together and now have served 6 years in the Senate together. He just lost his election in November, and he will be heading back to Colorado. I will miss my friend.

CORY and I had a lot of great conversations about a lot of legislation. We had a lot of conversations about our families. During the times that we would occasionally sit side by side in Bible studies here, we had lots of time to talk. I will not forget one key moment, though. It was our first day in the U.S. Senate, in this Chamber, when one of the staff approached us and said: The two of you have the same number of years in the House of Representatives, and you are both coming in from the same class to the Senate, which means you are tied for seniority in the Senate, and your seniority has to be resolved by a coin toss.

So CORY and I stood there, side by side, while we flipped a coin. I won, and I rubbed it in to him for 6 years that I had seniority over him in the U.S. Senate.

As I sat and listened to him speak for the last time today and talk about patriotism and his incredible love for his State and his country, all I could think of was, this is the guy I have seniority over, my friend, whom I will miss here.

CORY, thank you for being a great servant of the people of Colorado and a fantastic workaholic, happy warrior Senator.

With that, I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

NOMINATION OF NATHAN A. SIMINGTON

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, in just a few moments, we will vote on the nomination of Nathan Simington to be a member of the Federal Communications Commission. We will do so in the middle of a pandemic when this agency is of more importance than ever to students, businesses, and families who are vitally dependent on broadband, on the consumer protection that this agency provides, and to net neutrality, which is a vital issue for them and for our country.

"Nathan Simington" is not exactly a household word, but his name and his presence on the FCC will have important meaning to households around the Nation; nor is the "FCC" a household word, but it, too, affects literally hundreds of millions of households. The FCC will have an increasingly important role in this Nation as we conquer the pandemic and deal with the economic crisis that faces this Nation.

There are 15 to 16 million students who are locked out of the internet because of the unavailability of broadband connectivity or devices that make the internet real in their lives.

The FCC is the key to their participating in schools, and it is the key to businesses being able to communicate with customers. The FCC is at the crossroads of making rights real. Nathan Simington is dangerous to those rights and to the FCC at this moment in history.

Why is he the nominee? The answer is that the current FCC Commissioner, Michael O'Rielly, was originally nominated for another term, and the Commerce Committee even held a vote for him in July. Yet, after Twitter and Facebook had the temerity to label Donald Trump's misinformation about voting and COVID-19, the President issued an Executive order that had the simple purpose of retaliating against these social media platforms. The President, in effect, demanded that the FCC revise section 230 of the Communications Decency Act in order to punish those companies for the mild inconvenience of a fact check. They didn't take down his posts; they said they needed to fact check them.

Commissioner O'Rielly recognized the dangers and the potential illegality of the President's Executive order. Again, he had the temerity to speak up and tell the American public on C-SPAN that he had "deep reservations" if they, meaning Congress, "provided any additional authority for the FCC in this matter." In a later speech, he appeared to challenge the order on First Amendment grounds, which it well-deserved, in fact, because it potentially violated the First Amendment.

Despite years of a pristine record of Republican positions, this objection now was disqualifying to Commissioner O'Rielly in the view of the White House. The President pulled his nomination and substituted Mr. Simington, who was well qualified, for he had auditioned for the role of doing the President's bidding. We know Mr. Simington tried to pressure the FCC to cave in to the White House and to rightwing media outlets on this very issue, section 230. It is an unprecedented assault on the integrity and independence of the FCC, and he was clearly the White House's wingman on this issue.

Very simply, Nathan Simington is the wrong person and is clearly the wrong person at the wrong time for the FCC. He is unprepared and unqualified. Last month, before the Senate Commerce Committee, he was asked about his plan for the FCC. He couldn't provide one single measure for which he would advocate. He couldn't answer even basic questions from Democrats and Republicans. His answers were inadequate, incomplete, and evasive. I asked him again, in the questions for the record, to say three steps that he would take to provide and prepare for those millions of students who are out of the classroom and lack connectivity to the internet, which now is like lacking connection to the classroom. A student without that connectivity is, in effect, barred from the classroom. He

couldn't provide one meaningful response or step, even in writing, and that is plainly alarming. It should be disqualifying.

This nomination, though, is dangerous on more than any single issue because it threatens the independence and political integrity of the FCC. The political independence and integrity of the FCC depend on its balance. Normally, nominations are paired politically to reflect the bipartisan balance of the agency. What we will have at the FCC now is potential gridlock.

One month ago, voters overwhelmingly elected a new President, and he has promised to close the homework gap, the digital divide, to reinstate net neutrality, and to renew our commitment to consumer protection. This nomination threatens all of those goals for a new administration. In fact, the Senate has traditionally moved these nominations in bipartisan pairs, which is lacking here. In fact, it is contradicted by this nomination.

I think the purpose of confirming this nominee, very simply, is to deadlock the Commission and undermine the President-elect's ability to achieve the mandate the American people have given him and his administration in going forward. That may be what the giant telecommunications industry wants. It may be what the media companies hope to achieve—an FCC that is absent or neutralized, an FCC that is gridlocked and dysfunctional. I hope it is not the result of this nomination if he is confirmed, but my fear is that it will be, and if it is, this body bears a responsibility.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this nominee for the sake of those 16 million students who are now lacking in having a connection to the internet. That connectivity is essential to their lives and their educational progress. I urge this body to vote against him because he is dangerous to an agency that is supposed to be independent and above politics.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Schwartz vote begin now, some 2 minutes early.

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

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The bill clerk read the nomination of Stephen Sidney Schwartz, of Virginia,

to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

#### VOTE ON SCHWARTZ NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All postcloture time has expired.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

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

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

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 256 Ex.]

#### YEAS—49

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

#### NAYS—47

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

#### NOT VOTING—4

Harris	Perdue
Loeffler	Rounds

The nomination was confirmed.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

##### VOTE ON SIMINGTON NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All postcloture time is expired.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 257 Ex.]

#### YEAS—49

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

#### NAYS—46

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

#### NOT VOTING—5

Harris	Perdue	Whitehouse
Loeffler	Rounds	

The nomination was confirmed.

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

The Senator from Oklahoma.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for 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.

Mr. INHOFE. I ask to be recognized.

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

## UAE ARMS SALES

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, we have a vote coming up—it could be the end of this week—that has to do with the arms sales to the United Arab Emirates. I strongly support this; however, some of my colleagues do not support it, and there is now a joint resolution of disapproval. I would hope that we would really stop and think about that because this is a very significant thing that we are talking about.

The agreement between Israel and UAE is one of the Abraham Accords. It is a very significant one. It is one that President Trump was able to get together with the two countries, Israel and UAE, and it is really a great thing. It is a major breakthrough in the Middle East.

He has done a lot of great things, the President has. I know he is controversial, but in terms of his energy policy, the military, and the economy he has been right on target.

So anyway, Arab-Israeli peace is not unprecedented, but the agreement between Israel and the UAE has moved further and faster than any other agreements that preceded it in the past.

It seems that the UAE and Israel are finding new areas of cooperation almost every day. They are now working together on security, pandemic response, education, and even media. This partnership is deep and reflects the growing acceptance of our friend Israel in the region.

Most importantly, it did not require Israel to do anything. They didn't have to give up anything. So this is a major, major achievement. Now is the time to take advantage of the gains that we have.

President Trump has treated Israel like a friend, and other countries have rushed in to that friendship. We have several other countries in Africa and in the Middle East who are joined in with Israel that have never been there before.

The sale ensures that Israel's qualitative military edge is not affected. We know this because the Israelis themselves have said this. Moreover, this sale deepens the UAE's partnership with the United States and prevents it from turning toward China and Russia.

Now, this is the problem that we have. If we don't do this, if we don't cooperate with these countries in the Middle East, then you are going to have China and Russia out there taking advantage of it.

The UAE is worthy of this sale because it is strongly aligned with the United States in the Middle East. It is a vital counterterrorism partner. The UAE has fought alongside our troops in Afghanistan and against ISIS. They have been our friend for a long time.

It is also vital to the U.S. efforts against Iran—both Iran's ambition of regional dominance and its support for terrorist proxies.

Voting down this sale would signal to our partners that even when they do

everything that we ask—fight alongside our soldiers, pursue shared interests in the region, and make meaningful peace with Israel—the United States won't have their backs. This is not the reputation that we want to gain.

The truth is, they are reliable, and we appreciate that. We are reliable, and the United States has long stood with its partner Israel against its adversary, the Iranian regime.

This sale to the UAE is consistent with that approach. Nobody here would support it if Israel were not on board, but they are on board. What is more, they will bolster our longstanding efforts to counter Iran's nefarious regional activities.

The UAE is a strong partner that already has cutting-edge technology from our F-16 activity. They have been using that fighter aircraft for a long period of time, and this sale of the F-35 fighter jet is a continuation of that partnership.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support the sale and to oppose the joint resolution of disapproval. A vote against the resolution is a vote for peace in the Middle East. A vote for this resolution is a vote to give Iran, China, and Russia more power and influence in that region, and it would make our world less safe. It would send a message, also, around the world that we don't support our friends. It is a very significant vote to take place for the successes we have had in the Middle East, and I encourage people to oppose the resolution of disapproval.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I want to echo what the chairman of the Armed Services Committee said with regard to this upcoming vote. It is, actually, a very important vote, and I think that when you look at the leadership of the UAE and what they have done, we are seeing major peace agreements between our traditional Gulf Arab allies and Israel. This is really significant. This is a whole different approach to addressing some of the long-term challenges with regard to the Middle East, and it is starting to work.

I think it is imperative that this body, particularly at this time, send a message of support to countries and leaders—the UAE, in particular, given this upcoming vote—that have taken risks. Leadership sometimes requires you to take risks, and we know that the history in the Middle East is sometimes—when you have countries and leaders who take risks with regard to peace with Israel, those leaders can actually have dire consequences. Look what happened in Egypt, after that peace agreement, with their leaders.

I think it is very important that we, as a body, in a bipartisan, strong way come down in support not just of the progress that has been made in the re-

gion but also the broader strategic realignment that is happening.

Why is that happening? Because we all recognize—the United States, Israel, our traditional Gulf Arab allies, our traditional Arab allies in the region—that the biggest challenge, the biggest threat in the region is the terrorist regime in Iran, which is the biggest challenge and biggest threat to peace and security in the region.

There has been enormous progress. The President and his team deserve a lot of the credit. Rebuilding our military deserves a lot of credit, which we have all done here. But we need to send a signal that policies that have been tried before, particularly policies that appease the largest state-sponsor of terrorism in the world, don't work. The policies of strength, the policies of standing together—Israel, United States, our traditional Arab allies—that is what is working, and that is what is bringing peace.

This vote that is going to happen soon is a lot more than just a vote on weapon sales. It is a vote on this body helping to cement the reorientation in the region toward peace and toward recognizing what the challenge is.

The challenge that we all face is the biggest terrorist regime in the world, which threatens the United States, threatens Israel, threatens the UAE, and threatens Saudi Arabia. That is why we need a strong vote in the way the chairman of the Armed Services Committee just talked about. I am fully supportive of where he is, and I am hopeful that this body will vote for continued peace and strength, particularly as it relates to the terrorist regime in Iran, and not send the wrong signal to our friends and allies, particularly when historic progress—yes, it has been historic progress—is being made in the region.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

## REMEMBERING CASSIE JOHNSON

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of one of West Virginia's finest.

Patrolwoman Cassie Johnson of the Charleston Police Department represented the very best of who we are as a statewide community. She was taken from us far too soon, on December 3, 2020, at the age of 28.

Cassie was the daughter of an ironworker. She shared her mother's steely resolve and iron constitution.

Being a police officer in the city she loved and grew up in was a dream come true for Cassie. She was sworn in by Mayor Amy Goodwin in January 2019 and had previously worked as a city humane officer.

Cassie was born and raised in our State's capital. She could have gone anywhere, and she chose to stay and protect and serve the community that made her who she was.

She was truly a beautiful person in every way.



Growing up, Cassie was an athlete and particularly loved softball. She would one day find that the Little League field she played on as a child was on her beat. So she watched over it with great care so the current generation of children could play in safety.

One of the first things she did when she was assigned to the field was to clean up the drug paraphernalia to make the field a safe place for kids. Because of her efforts, children and their families have been able to enjoy the field as a clean, safe, fun place to play.

Cassie was an animal lover and dedicated her life to rescuing pets who had been cast aside, even taking an animal behavior class in Tennessee so she could better understand the language of dogs.

Cassie's beloved dog Emma was a chocolate lab who passed away a few months ago. Cassie grieved deeply for Emma because she had a special connection with her.

Years ago, when Cassie was in high school, Emma had nine chocolate lab pups in Cassie's bedroom. Her mom tells the story of taking the runt of the litter with her to pick up Cassie at school. When they got home, there were chocolate lab pups running everywhere. This was just one of the many adventures Cassie had with Emma. No doubt, they are reunited again.

Cassie was a music lover, most likely because her mother sang her to sleep as a child. She was surrounded by instruments and music throughout her life. She loved to make the world beautiful, and that is also why she enjoyed decorating for the holidays.

The weekend before she passed, she decorated her mother's house for Christmas, alongside her dear sister Chelsea. One of the last actions she took the day of her passing was to wipe the snow from those holiday decorations because she always looked out for her mother any way that she could.

Most importantly, Cassie was a genuinely good person, and she lived her whole life with West Virginia values. She worked hard and bought her own home at the age of 25. She was beloved in the community and in her profession, as evidenced in the tremendous outpouring of grief. The support and fellowship that followed her tragic passing has been unbelievable.

Her mother describes her as respectful and well-mannered throughout her whole life.

Cassie will be deeply missed, not only because of who she was but because we are all so keenly aware of and sorrowful for what might have been.

No one can take away what Cassie represented to the Charleston community and the entire Mountain State. Every one of our female leaders in West Virginia is an epitome of strength and advancement in their fields and serve as inspiring role models for the next generation. That is due in great part to the women who broke ground in generations past. Because of their accomplishments, young women like Cassie

have and will blaze their own trails and continue to make our State and entire Nation proud.

I have such tremendous respect for our police officers and all of our first responders. Cassie's compassion, courage, and selflessness will live on through the memories of those who knew and loved her, as well as through the countless lives she touched and inspired every day.

She leaves us having made a profound impact in the community that she loved, as well as in the lives of those around her.

I had the tremendous and humbling honor of visiting with Cassie's family at her bedside in her final hours. It is clear to me that Cassie came from strong roots and that her life was filled with joy and love. She was a beloved daughter and sister and a loyal friend, who adored her three dogs and all animals.

Cassie was an organ donor. Her final act of selflessness has given someone else a chance.

The Charleston Police Department has retired Cassie's unit number, 146.

I know I join the entire Mountain State in mourning our shared loss of this bright, generous, and vibrant spirit.

Gayle and I extend our deepest condolences to Cassie's mother Sheryl, sister Chelsea, brother Terry, and all of her family and friends, her colleagues with the Charleston Police Department, as well as the city of Charleston, and will forever keep them in our prayers.

May God watch over Cassie.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MURKOWSKI). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### REMEMBERING PAUL SARBANES

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, when you are new to the U.S. Senate, it is not unusual for friends and people back home, after you have been there a while, to say: So who are the good guys and who are the bad guys in the Senate? Who are the ones you really like and what can you tell us about the rest of them?

It is a common question that is asked, and I do remember, as a new Senator here, reflecting on that question and saying: You know, if I had an important decision to make in the Senate, whatever the issue might be, there are two Senators whom I always want to sit down and get their advice. One was Carl Levin of Michigan—one of the most thoughtful, smart guys I had a chance to serve with, and the other was Paul Sarbanes. He just always struck me as a man of substance, who took

questions seriously. He was respected in the U.S. Senate for his service, of course, to Maryland, and he was just a good person. He brought real integrity to the U.S. Senate.

So when I learned that he passed away just a few days ago, I wanted to put a few things in the RECORD.

He was a man of towering intellect and integrity, but he was modest. He didn't care about headlines. He did so much good work behind the scenes. He was given some of the toughest assignments.

Think about the responsibility of dealing with the great recession and then working with Republican Congressman Oxley to put together a really significant reform of Wall Street and the financial community. We knew we could trust Paul Sarbanes to do it, and he did it in a bipartisan fashion.

He was a proud son of immigrants. He never forgot it. His parents emigrated from the same town in Greece but only met in America.

The Sarbanes owned a famous restaurant in Salisbury, MD, and gave it the quintessentially American name—the Mayflower Restaurant. Paul worked in the restaurant as a boy, and he and his family lived above the restaurant.

He graduated from public high school, won a scholarship to Princeton University, studied as a Rhodes scholar at Oxford University, and in 1960 earned a law degree from Harvard. Not bad for an immigrant's son.

From Harvard, Paul went to the White House, where he was one of the best and brightest who answered President John Kennedy's call to public service. There, he worked as an administrative assistant to Walter Heller, who was Chairman of President Kennedy's Council of Economic Advisers.

Paul Sarbanes' parents taught him that serving one's nation in public service was a noble calling.

One of the many Greek words Paul Sarbanes learned from his parents was the word "idiotes." It is the Greek root word for the English word "idiot," but it has a different meaning in Greek. It means someone who takes no part in the affairs of his community. In the Sarbanes family, that was almost a curse.

Paul and his parents believed that service to others and to their adopted homeland was a noble calling. So Paul first ran for elective office. In 1966, he was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates.

In 1970, the people of Maryland elected him to the U.S. House of Representatives. He was a young Congressman when he wrote one of the successful Articles of Impeachment against then-President Nixon for lying about his Watergate burglary.

In 1976, he won his first election to the U.S. Senate. He would go on to serve 30 years in the Chamber. He was a voice of reason on both the Senate Iran-Contra and Whitewater committees.

When corporate swindling at Enron and other large corporations cheated millions of Americans out of their life savings, it was Paul Sarbanes' leadership that enabled the Senate to pass the most far-reaching corporate accountability reform since the Securities and Exchange Commission was created 70 years before.

That Sarbanes-Oxley reform law passed in 2002. It was designed to prevent the kind of corporate abuses that had so damaged America's economy and shaken the faith of the American people in the economic markets.

In 2002, things came full circle for me. There was created an award in the name of Senator Paul Douglas of Illinois—a man whom I first met as a college intern who inspired me to get started in this business. Paul Sarbanes won in 2002 and became the first recipient of the Senator Paul Douglas Ethics in Government Award that is presented by the University of Illinois to honor men and women in public service who exhibit the finest qualities of leadership. It was a perfect match, and, for me, it came full circle.

What a coincidence it is that the people who have been my heroes in public life so far, so many are named Paul: Paul Douglas, who had started me as an intern, who introduced me to Paul Simon, who preceded me in the U.S. Senate, where I served with Paul Sarbanes.

They basically say in my office that I have been raised according to the Gospel of "Saints" Paul.

I want to quote briefly from Senator Sarbanes' final speech in the Senate before he retired in 2006. It speaks powerfully to the kind of leaders America is looking for today.

Here is what Paul Sarbanes said:

Throughout my years in public service, I have worked to the limits of my ability to provide the people of Maryland and the Nation dedicated, informed, and independent representation based upon the fundamental principles of integrity and intelligence. I have been guided in this effort by a vision of a decent and just America, based on a strong sense of community and offering fairness and opportunity to all its people.

I know I join all my colleagues in thanking Paul for doing his part so nobly and so well to help us move toward a more perfect Union.

And let me say a word about his wife Christine. She was his real partner in life. I can recall when he retired, and I said: Paul, I am sorry to see you go. And he said: Let me ask you a question. When are you supposed to leave around here? It is a question many of us have asked ourselves over and over.

As far as he was concerned, I said: What do you want to do the most? He said: Travel with Christine.

They were able to do that for a limited period of time because Christine died of cancer in 2009. She was a wonderful person—intelligent, just like Paul—and the two of them were pure happiness together.

Loretta and I wish to express our condolences to the Sarbanes family, es-

pecially to their children—Michael, Janet, and a man I have come to know and respect, his son, Congressman JOHN SARBANES, as well as their grandchildren, his friends and former staff members, and the countless people whose lives are better because of Paul Sarbanes.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### ARMS SALE RESOLUTION

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, over the last 4 years, we have seen a series of encouraging developments in the Middle East—a place where there isn't a long trend line of positive developments.

We have destroyed the ISIS caliphate. We have brought down dangerous terrorist leaders like al-Baghdadi and, of course, the head of the IRGC, Soleimani, who was personally responsible for American blood on his hands, particularly providing explosives that penetrated our armor in Iraq.

Through congressional action and the work of the Trump administration, we strengthened bilateral ties with our closest friends and allies, including Israel and Jordan. This summer, the administration helped forge historic peace deals between Israel and Arab nations in the region. The United Arab Emirates became the third Arab country and first Gulf State to recognize and normalize relations with Israel by the signing of the Abraham Accords Peace Agreement. It was only a matter of days until Bahrain followed suit and announced its agreement with Israel to open formal diplomatic negotiations.

These historic breakthroughs represent serious progress in our efforts to fight terrorism and establish lasting peace and stability in the Middle East. While more work obviously remains, it is great to see the mounting pressure against Iran—the region's greatest antagonist and largest state sponsor of terrorism.

Last month, the Trump administration announced that it intended to sell arms to our friends in the United Arab Emirates—a move that I support. This will help the UAE work with the United States and our friends to deter and defend these threats from Iran and other hostilities in the region. What it seems to me is that it focused everybody's attention on the recognition that Iran represents the single biggest destabilizing and dangerous influence in the Middle East today, and it is the recognition that they are the common adversary of not only the Arab nations in the region but also the United States and our ally Israel that

has, I think, brought them to the negotiating table.

As Iran grows increasingly belligerent toward the United States and our allies, these military assets that we will sell to our friends in the UAE will serve as a stabilizing force, a force multiplier, and a source of protection for the United States and our security interests. We have learned a hard lesson that American boots on the ground is something we want to do as a last resort. But if we can work by, with, and through our friends and allies to provide that security and stability against a common enemy, we should do it.

The arms sale will allow greater military cooperation between the United States, the UAE, and Israel and strengthen a growing coalition of aligned forces in the region. It will also make sure the United States remains the partner of choice.

It is not as if the United States is the only one that has a say. Obviously, if we don't provide them the military equipment they need, they will go looking for other sellers, and that would certainly be less desirable for us and for them because we are their partner of choice in the region. Russia and particularly China have sought to increase their malign influence in the Middle East, and they would be more than happy to fill the void left by any refusal on the part of the United States to make this sale. So blocking this sale would only strengthen the position of China and Russia, while significantly weakening our own.

As we continue to make progress in the decades-long quest for peace and stability in the Middle East, I support the administration's strategic decision to sell arms to the UAE. This would provide the UAE with critical national security assets, such as access to the F-35 fifth-generation fighter, unmanned aerial vehicles, and other advanced munitions to act as a deterrent, and if worse comes to worse, it actually gives them a comparative advantage with other countries in the region.

The Israeli Ambassador to the United States, Ron Dermer, perhaps summed it up best when he said:

What keeps me up at night is actually not the proposed F-35 sale to the Emirates. What keeps me up at night is the idea that somebody would return to the nuclear deal with Iran.

#### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, on another matter, this week, I hope we are able to make more progress on the coronavirus relief negotiations so we can pass another bill before recessing for the holidays. There are a lot of people in this country, all throughout the country, who are hurting, who are anxious, and who are worried about their ability to pay the rent and to meet their other obligations in the face of this pandemic, and I think it would be a dereliction of duty on our part to leave here without addressing those real needs.

Earlier this year, we worked in a quick, bipartisan fashion to pass relief bills totaling more than \$3 trillion. Thinking back on it, it was pretty remarkable to do as much as we did as fast as we did, but we knew we were up against a common enemy in this virus, and we knew we had to respond quickly, and we did. The funding we provided has gone a long way to support our healthcare and economic response, but as our war against COVID-19 continues to rage on, additional support is needed, and it is needed now.

The good news is, as earlier, there are a number of areas that we agree on what the support should look like, including funding for schools, assistance for the hardest hit workers and small businesses, and another investment in the distribution of the vaccine that can't come soon enough, but we remain hung up on a couple of important points, including liability protection for businesses, schools, nonprofits, and others who in good faith did their best to follow guidance from the CDC and other public health authorities but now face the prospect of litigation.

It is pretty hard to follow the guidance as knowledge of this virus has evolved. I remember before April, the head of the CDC, including Dr. Fauci and others, said that masks were useless. Then they changed their guidance in April. That is fine. I respect that based on what we have learned about the virus. But we simply can't expose people who have tried their best to muddle along in the face of this pandemic, following the guidance from public health officials, and say: You didn't know then what we know now, so you must have been negligent, and you need to pay compensation in the form of litigation.

Well, I don't think that is fair to those entities, those individuals, those businesses, those schools, those churches, mosques, and synagogues. But this is something that is on the minds of a lot of people, from healthcare workers, to teachers, to nonprofits, to small business owners. Those who continue to provide essential services and goods didn't have any choice but to show up and go to work. Now they are worried that by opening their doors to people who really needed their help at the time, they have also now opened themselves up to an endless parade of lawsuits by the trial bar.

We all know that lawyers can be very creative and opportunistic. That is part of what lawyering involves. But the litigation we expect against doctors, nurses, colleges, churches, small businesses—anyone and everyone could be blamed for another person's harm. If those lawsuits are feasible, they will follow. And the statute of limitations is a couple years, so even though we are not necessarily seeing it now, we do know that class action litigation could be filed in any favorable jurisdiction

anywhere in the country and basically bankrupt many businesses and certainly discourage businesses from safely reopening and following those guidelines.

I think there is another reason to reward people who have tried their best to follow those guidelines—because it ensures more compliance. To now play a game of “gotcha” with them and say: It wasn't good enough, so now you are going to have to pay or maybe even just defend a lawsuit that you ultimately will win—we all know that will cost a lot of money and will take a lot of time, and I would prefer to see them rebuild their businesses and restore the jobs that were lost as a result of the pandemic.

So because of my concern about the need for some liability shield, we introduced a bill called the SAFE TO WORK Act that provides commonsense protections for those who acted in good faith to keep their customers and their employees safe, while still preserving the right to sue for those who were victims of gross negligence or intentional misconduct.

This is not a blanket liability shield that won't permit the really truly bad actors from facing due consequences. It won't ban coronavirus lawsuits, and it won't give anyone a get-out-of-jail-free card. So we need to get that straight up front. In cases of gross negligence or willful misconduct, where the applicable public health guidelines were not followed, the person affected has every right to sue and be made whole in a court of law. No one is asking to change that. What we do need, though, is to put safeguards in place to ensure that those who operated in good faith and were following all the relevant guidelines, even as they evolved over time, cannot be sued out of existence.

First and foremost are protections for our incredible healthcare heroes who made tremendous physical and mental sacrifices over the last several months. This legislation sets a willful misconduct or gross negligence standard for coronavirus-related medical liability suits to ensure that only legitimate cases are brought against our healthcare workers who, again, didn't have any choice but to show up for work.

In addition to protecting our healthcare heroes, we need to ensure that a fear of lawsuits doesn't prevent schools, nonprofits, churches, small businesses, and a range of other organizations and institutions that are vital to our communities and our economy from opening their doors. This spells out in black and white that these entities will be protected from COVID-19 exposure claims as long as they comply with mandatory public health guidelines.

It is true that a number of States have already provided similar protections, including the minority leader's

home State of New York, and it is time that we extend these liability limitations to the rest of the country, particularly States like mine where the legislature does not meet on a continual basis. They haven't even been in session during 2020. They will go into session in January, and I presume they will try to fill in any holes they feel like we left when it comes to liability protection. But without a uniform Federal standard, we are going to end up in a dangerous venue shopping situation, and it is only to be expected that the lawyers will find the place most favorable for their lawsuits. They will seek to pursue those claims using class action procedures, and we will be right back at the worst nightmare that I think many folks would have contemplated unless we provide for this Federal liability shield.

The goal is not to protect bad actors. What we do need to clearly spell out is for the schools, colleges, nonprofits, churches, and businesses that are asking us to provide them some guidance and some security.

Our Democratic colleagues have not expressed a lot of enthusiasm for this legislation, and my Republican colleagues and I have tried to work with them to reach a result that both sides can support. But the nature of compromise, as we all know, is give-and-take, but so far it has been pretty much one-sided. We have offered changes to appease our Democratic colleagues' concerns while still preserving the basic goal of the legislation, but the truth is, they really haven't moved much in any meaningful way.

I think the truth is that our country's long-term economic recovery from this virus depends on these liability protections in large part. Businesses doing the best they can during a worldwide emergency should not face bankruptcy because of concerns about the trial bar. I mean, who are we here working for—the American people or for lawyers who—and this isn't necessarily designed to be a criticism—who are looking out for their own economic interests first and foremost? Our view must be much broader than that, and the greatest good for the greatest number I think should be our guiding principle.

Our essential workers and institutions need to know that if they have been operating in good faith and obeying the guidelines that have been promulgated by the public health authorities, they won't be subjected to litigation, and only Congress can provide that certainty.

Now, this is not a permanent Federal takeover of State tort law by any means. It really is comparable to what we did after Y2K—or in the run up to Y2K—and also with other national

emergencies like 9/11. We have even given some protection to pharmaceutical companies, which we have asked to take risks to come up with world-class vaccines and therapies, to encourage them and to incentivize them to do that because we know it is in the public interest.

But across the country, we are already seeing these lawsuits rolling in, and without action from Congress, we are going to emerge from this pandemic only to find ourselves in not another wave of the virus but in a second wave of litigation that will be devastating for many.

In order for our country and our economy to recover, these workers and these institutions need to know that they can follow the guidelines and then safely reopen their doors and do their jobs with confidence. They need to know that if they follow these guidelines and act in good faith, they won't be subjected to perhaps business-ending litigation that could tie them up in court and drain their remaining resources dry.

As I have said, the way we reach agreements around here is through bipartisan negotiations. It took a little compromise, and neither side achieved 100 percent of what they wanted, but we eventually have gotten there. We have done that four times in the coronavirus response, and I hope we can do it again here.

I hope our Democratic colleagues will approach these negotiations with the gravity they deserve. We can't leave people waiting and wondering what their future looks like any longer if there is something we can do to provide them some safety and security and some confidence about what the future may look like.

I hope we will all work together to deliver these critical liability protections for folks across the country in all 50 States.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR PAUL SPYROS SARBANES

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I take this time, along with my colleague from Maryland, Senator CHRIS VAN HOLLEN—and I am also pleased that we are joined by Senator STABENOW and Senator REED. We take this time, on a very sad note, to announce the death of Paul Spyros Sarbanes, our former colleague in the U.S. Senate, who passed away on December 6, 2020, at the age of 87.

I first got to know Senator Sarbanes when he first ran for public office in 1966. We both were elected to the Maryland General Assembly that year, and we became good friends. Delegate Sarbanes at that point made a name for himself on the House Judiciary Committee in the Maryland General Assembly and was a rising star from his first day in the Maryland General Assembly.

He shortly thereafter ran for the House of Representatives. He served three terms in the House of Representatives with a very distinguished career. During that time, it was the time of the Watergate issues, and Congressman SARBANES was on the Judiciary Committee and was given the responsibility of the first Article of Impeachment against President Nixon. That article dealt with obstruction of justice. It was the key engagement against President Nixon on impeachment, and it is very telling that that responsibility was given to a young Member of the House of Representatives, Congressman Paul Sarbanes. It was because of his work ethic, his commitment to scholarship, and his understanding of issues that he was entrusted with that responsibility.

He then served five terms in the U.S. Senate, the longest term for any Senator in Maryland. Paul Sarbanes was known as a Senator's Senator for his integrity, for his public commitment to public service, and his strong commitment to principles. He was a Rhodes scholar who chose to serve the public rather than using his skills in the private sector for his own personal gain. His entire life was devoted to public service. What a legacy he has left us by his incredible public service.

In 2002, the Enron scandal hit America, and Chairman Sarbanes, the chairman of the Banking Committee here, teamed up with Chairman Oxley in the House to pass the Sarbanes-Oxley legislation. George W. Bush—President Bush—said it was “the most far-reaching reforms of American business practices since the time of Franklin Delano Roosevelt.” The leadership of Senator Sarbanes was deeply needed at that time, and he delivered on behalf of the American people.

Senator VAN HOLLEN and I know firsthand what Senator Sarbanes did in helping to create the Federal partnership in the Chesapeake Bay Program. It was during the time that he was the junior Senator from Maryland, along with Senator Mathias, that the two of them partnered in order to develop the Federal program for the Chesapeake Bay, and then Senator Sarbanes carried the burden of that partnership. For many years, it was through his efforts in the U.S. Senate that we were able to continue and expand the Federal partnership for the bay.

Now, those of us who live in the bay region—and I know that Senator STABENOW has heard me talk about this many times when we talk about the great water bodies. We know that the Chesapeake is the largest estuary in our hemisphere. It is the most diverse estuary, and it is a challenge because of the way that the water flows and it cleanses itself. So we started this Federal partnership—Senator Sarbanes did—and it has provided incredible dividends for the people of Maryland and the people of our Nation—indeed, the global community.

He was an expert on foreign policy. He served on the Senate Foreign Rela-

tions Committee. He was involved in the leadership of passing ratification of the Panama Canal Treaty, and there are so many other areas in which Senator Sarbanes excelled.

We all receive honors; I know that. I am just going to mention three because they were really reflective of what Senator Sarbanes accomplished during his career. He got the Paul H. Douglas Ethics in Government Award for his incredible standard of integrity and ethics; the Roth Award for extraordinary impact on policy, on economic business, and finance—his lasting legacy on the financial institutions here in America; and the Cox, Richardson, Coleman Award for distinguished public service. He was a Senator's Senator. He devoted his life to public service.

In a way, Paul Sarbanes represents the American success story. He was a son of Greek immigrants, grew up on the Eastern Shore of Maryland in Salisbury, and rose to serve in the U.S. Senate.

His lifetime partner was Christine. All of us remember Paul and Christine together. What a couple they made. What a love story it was.

There are three children. JOHN, whom we all know very well because he serves in the House of Representatives, holds the seat in the Third Congressional District. It is the same seat that Barbara Mikulski held, the same seat that I held; the same seat that Paul Sarbanes held is now being held by Paul's son JOHN, and what a great job he is doing. It is interesting that he was the leading sponsor of H.R. 1 in this Congress, which was basically the good governance legislation that passed overwhelmingly in the House, and so many other things that follow in his father's tradition.

Paul's other son Michael has had a distinguished career, and Janet, his daughter, has also had a distinguished career.

Paul had seven grandchildren. Christine predeceased Paul.

I want to just talk a moment about the partnership between Senator Sarbanes and Senator Mikulski. They had different styles. I think most people would acknowledge that from the beginning, Paul was very much stately and represented the traditional, I guess, demeanor that you would expect of a U.S. Senator. And I love Barbara Mikulski, but no one would ever accuse her of having that type of demeanor. But the two of them had an incredible relationship together. They were called the “Diner Democrats” because Paul's father's family ran a diner, and Barbara Mikulski's family ran Mikulski's Bakery, as we all know. They worked together in true partnership over so many years. It was a friendship that was really one of total trust and respect.

I had a chance to communicate with Senator Mikulski, and she, because of COVID, could not join us tonight.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that her statement be printed in the RECORD of these proceedings.

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

MIKULSKI STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF  
SENATOR PAUL S. SARBANES

BALTIMORE.—Retired U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-MD) today issues the following statement remembering Senator Paul Sarbanes:

"We join Maryland and all of America in mourning the loss of Senator Paul Sarbanes. We extend our condolences and sympathies to his family and loved ones during this time.

America has lost a great statesman, the state of Maryland has lost a champion, and I, along with so many others, have lost a friend.

The Maryland Delegation calls itself Team Maryland, and we became a team because of Senator Sarbanes's work in reaching hands across the aisle to Senator Mac Mathias. Senator Sarbanes knew that each of us could make a difference but working together was how we would make change. His legacy of bringing Marylanders together to make change lives on in the Delegation today.

Senator Sarbanes never forgot his family's strong immigrant roots or their belief in the American Dream. He knew the transformational power of education and championed an opportunity ladder and increased access to higher education. An unabashed believer in America's promise, he became a voice for civil rights and voting rights. And in his advocacy on housing, he worked to eliminate barriers of discrimination. He championed the stabilization of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds and worked tirelessly to protect and preserve the Chesapeake Bay for tomorrow while advocating for jobs on the Port of Baltimore today.

Senator Sarbanes believed that discussion and debate should always be based on civility, intellectual rigor, and respect for others. He was a workhorse, not a show horse, who cared more about the getting job done and getting it done right, than in taking credit.

We served together in Congress for 30 years, 20 of them together in the Senate. And just as he was Maryland's champion, he was my champion, too. As well as my ally and friend. We joked that we were "diner democrats," not "dynasty democrats." He was the son of a diner owner, and I was the daughter of a grocer. We were both raised to ask how we could help those around us every day. Senator Sarbanes took that lesson to heart; it was his commitment to helping not only the people of Maryland, but every American that drove him. And each of us is better off for having been helped by him.

He was always there when you needed him. He will be missed."

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, let me conclude by just quoting from Senator Sarbanes himself on the final speech that he gave when he left the Senate. He said:

Throughout my years in public service, I have worked to the limits of my ability to provide the people of Maryland and the Nation dedicated, informed, and independent representation based on the fundamental principles of integrity and intelligence. I have been guided in this effort by the vision of a decent and just America, based on a strong sense of community and offering fairness and opportunity to all its people.

Service in this body has reinforced, many times over, my understanding and commitment to the institutions upon which our system of Democratic governance critically depends.

So long as [that] vision of America's promise continues to shine brightly in this body,

I have every confidence that our Nation will prevail in the face of great challenges and that its future will be assured.

It is our responsibility to heed those words of Senator Sarbanes and strive to carry out his legacy.

Before I yield to Senator VAN HOLLEN, the two of us, on behalf of all of the Members of the U.S. Senate, have filed a resolution to honor Paul Sarbanes. This has been cleared.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 797, 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. 797) honoring the life and achievements of former United States Senator Paul Spyros Sarbanes and expressing condolences to the family of Paul Spyros Sarbanes on his passing.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 797) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions".)

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I now yield the floor in anticipation that my colleague from Maryland—the two of us have joined together to pay tribute to Senator Sarbanes—be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, I want to start by thanking my friend and colleague, the senior Senator from Maryland, Senator BEN CARDIN, for his remembrance of Paul Sarbanes. I am honored to join him and others in offering a resolution in memory of Senator Paul Sarbanes.

I should say that Senator Sarbanes was very pleased that BEN CARDIN succeeded him in his seat here in the U.S. Senate. So I am honored to join with him, Senator STABENOW, Senator REED, Senator DURBIN, and others in remembering somebody who was a friend, who was a mentor, and who was the excellent role model for every elected official—Senator Paul Sarbanes.

He was a thoughtful and brilliant Senator, a kind man, and a dedicated public servant. As we have heard, he was born on Maryland's Eastern Shore to parents who emigrated from Greece. He graduated from the local public high school, Wicomico High School, and was recruited to attend Princeton on a full scholarship. He excelled in his studies as he would in his career, becoming a Rhodes scholar and graduating from Oxford before attending Harvard Law School.

He went on to a very distinguished career in public service that ended here in the U.S. Senate, but he never ever forgot his humble roots in Salisbury, where his parents owned a small restaurant they called the Mayflower.

In his farewell speech in the Senate, Senator Paul Sarbanes said:

My parents came to this country as immigrants from Greece, both my mother and [my] father, and it was from them that I first learned about the meaning of a democratic society and the potential it offers to move up the ladder of opportunity on the basis of ability, hard work, and conviction. Their memory is still a very powerful influence in my life.

As we heard from Senator CARDIN, Senator Barbara Mikulski, who served here so well, was his friend and partner, and for years she always joked that they were the "Diner Democrats," a nod to the Mayflower restaurant, owned by Paul Sarbanes's father, her roots in the Polish-American community in Baltimore, and their mutual commitment to fighting for working people, for the dignity of work, for the reality of the struggles so many Americans face, and the need to give every American a fair shot.

Paul Sarbanes carried the values he learned from his parents on Maryland's Eastern Shore, first to the Maryland House of Delegates, then to the House of Representatives, and later here to the U.S. Senate.

From the very start, he developed a reputation for thoughtfulness and honor. He could make simple and confident arguments, based on evidence, to win others to his cause—Members from both parties.

He was in his first term in the House of Representatives during the Watergate hearings, and he approached the proceedings on the Judiciary Committee with his signature seriousness of purpose. He considered the evidence, he listened to President Nixon's counsel's statements, and methodically addressed and responded to their arguments. Because of his own unimpeachable conduct, the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee called upon him, a new member, and asked him to introduce the first article of impeachment against President Nixon—the charge of obstruction of justice. Paul Sarbanes had the legal acumen to take on that responsibility, but he also had the integrity to be a moral voice in the Congress at that moment for the country.

Writing about his dignified work during the Watergate proceedings, journalist Elizabeth Drew commented: "Paul Sarbanes would not have looked at all bad at the Constitutional Convention; he might have [even] been one of the great ones."

After three terms in the House, Paul Sarbanes ran for the Senate. I first met Senator Sarbanes in the 1980s, when I was serving as a staff member on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

I know everybody who served with Paul Sarbanes will understand what a master class it was to watch him during a hearing. On cross-examination,

he asked thoughtful, probing questions, and before a reluctant witness realized what was happening, he had them cornered with no way out but to concede to the point that he wanted to make or look deliberately evasive. Woe be it to any witness who came before Senator Sarbanes unprepared.

He was a Senate workhorse in the truest and best sense. Former Majority Leader George Mitchell once said: "Paul was effective because he didn't seek credit, which endeared him to his colleagues."

He wasn't afraid to take his time to get to the bottom of an issue, build his case, and convince his colleagues. In the wake of the Enron scandal, he held 10 hearings to ensure that the congressional response would be thorough and effective and rallied the entire Senate to support the ensuing Sarbanes-Oxley Act, the law that is credited with restoring greater investor confidence in the market and providing transparency and oversight for corporate governance.

He loved the State of Maryland, and especially the Chesapeake Bay. As Senator CARDIN indicated, he took on the mantle of forging and strengthening the Federal partnership to clean up his beloved Chesapeake Bay.

He wanted everybody to have a fair deal and worked to improve access to affordable housing and to protect consumers from his seat on the Banking Committee. He believed in the United States as a force for good in the world and supported foreign assistance, the treaties to return control of the Panama Canal to Panama, and strongly supported legislation to impose sanctions under the then-apartheid regime of South Africa. He opposed senseless and unnecessary wars.

I came to the House of Representatives in 2003, along with my friend and colleague from Baltimore, Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger. Senator Sarbanes was then the leader of our delegation. He welcomed us kindly, but as captain of Team Maryland, he characteristically was eager to allow all Members, however new they were to the delegation, to play an important role.

Not surprisingly, Senator Sarbanes was a favored son of the Greek-American community. He was a member of the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation in Baltimore and held the highest lay office in the church. We shared strong bonds in the Greek-American community because, like Paul's parents, my wife Katherine's mother's family immigrated from Greece.

As a strong believer in promoting democratic values at home and abroad, Senator Sarbanes was proud of those Greek roots and spoke often of democracy's roots with the ancient Greeks. He used to speak to students about the importance of public service, telling them that in ancient Athens, people who lived only a private life, without view of the public good, were failing to live fully.

Indeed, the power of democracy and its promise of opportunity was the driving force behind his governing philosophy—to open the door to others, to keep your promises, and to achieve based on your merit, not on your connections, money, or power.

As extraordinary a public servant as he was, Paul Sarbanes was, above all, a family man. He was devoted to his wife Christine, whom he met at Oxford. Recalling their first encounter, Paul said:

She came to a meeting of the American Association I headed. I forgot what was on the agenda. All I remember of that meeting was that was where I met Christine.

She was brilliant and kind, an educator in Latin, Greek, French, and the classics, who matched Senator Sarbanes's intelligence and shared his love of service. They used to knock on doors together during his political campaigns, and she was a sounding board throughout his career. They raised three children, including our friend, JOHN SARBANES, who now serves Maryland so well in the House of Representatives. He was enormously proud of them and his seven grandchildren.

I also extend my condolences today to Senator Sarbanes's former staff. His legacy goes well beyond the laws he wrote to the way he worked. He shared with them: Do your homework, understand the details, act with integrity, and hold firm to your values. It is an example for all of us to follow.

Senator Sarbanes was not a flashy presence. In fact, political opponents once tried to belittle him with the name "the stealth Senator." But as he joked, stealth "is one of the most important weapons in our military arsenal. . . if you let somebody else take the credit, you can get the result."

That was Paul Sarbanes—enormous accomplishments, never taking the credit. His quiet confidence left an impression on all who served with him.

We have lost a great Senator. America has lost a great Senator, and many of us have lost a very good friend. But we should be comforted in the knowledge that he achieved what we would all wish for ourselves: He served well, he made the world better for others, he treated all he knew with respect and earned their respect in return, and he leaves us with fond memories.

May God grant those who loved him the strength to bear his loss, and may his memory be eternal.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROMNEY). The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise this evening with my colleagues from Maryland and with Senator REED from Rhode Island to pay tribute to someone whom I was lucky enough to have as a mentor when I first entered the Senate. And I want to associate myself with all of the wonderful words of my friends from Maryland.

With any new job, there is a learning curve. There are certainly things that you don't know and that you don't

even know enough to know you don't know. That certainly is true in the Senate.

In 2001, I was a former Member of the House who had just been elected to the Senate. It was an exciting time—a lot of new people to meet, rules to learn, and procedures to follow. One of my new assignments was the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, where Senator Sarbanes served as the chairman.

By that time, Senator Sarbanes was already an institution. As my colleagues have mentioned, he introduced the first article of impeachment against President Richard Nixon, as a junior Congressman. And as a freshman Senator in 1978, he was a forceful advocate for treaties that gave control, among other things, of the Panama Canal to Panama. So it felt a little surreal to find myself at the table with a brilliant leader like Senator Paul Sarbanes.

But he could not have been more gracious and more generous with his time for me as a freshman Member. He was always willing to answer my questions. He was a wonderful mentor. We, of course, worked on banking issues together, including the crafting of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, where I was able, up close, to watch his legislative mastery.

We also worked on public transit provisions in our transportation bill, which was very important for us in Michigan.

We shared a passion for protecting our water. My colleagues have talked about the Chesapeake Bay. For me, it was the Great Lakes, and we often talked about the beauty of the lakes, as well as the bay.

Senator Sarbanes gave his final speech on the Senate floor on this very day, 14 years ago. He was a humble man, and his remarks were quite brief. He closed, in part, with this: "I want my colleagues to know how deeply I appreciate their friendship and [their] counsel and how highly I value the privilege of having been their colleague."

Today, I can say exactly the same words about Senator Paul Sarbanes. He was a statesman, and I was lucky enough to call him my friend. I value the privilege of having been his colleague.

I want to offer his family, including Congressman JOHN SARBANES, all of Paul's friends, and the entire State of Maryland my deepest condolences. We have lost an incredible leader and public servant.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, it is an honor to join my colleagues from Maryland, Senator CARDIN and Senator VAN HOLLEN, and my colleague from Michigan, Senator STABENOW, to take a moment to recognize and remember my esteemed former colleague and dear friend, Senator Paul Sarbanes, who passed away last Sunday.



Paul Sarbanes spent 30 years in this Chamber doing what he knew was right. In that time, he built a legacy most could not achieve in two lifetimes.

Paul's work on banking, the economy, housing, transportation, and so many other issues had a profound and significant impact on our country. But, more importantly, his work had a direct impact on so many families whose lives were made better because of his unsung efforts over three decades.

I had the distinct honor of serving with Senator Sarbanes and working directly with him on the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee and the Joint Economic Committee.

Senator Sarbanes was a constant and steady champion of commonsense fiscal policies to help create jobs, expand our economy, and increase consumer and investor protections. Indeed, he used his power and influence to help those with the least power and influence in our society, which is a hallmark of our finest public servants. And Paul still remains one of our finest public servants—indeed, one of the finest of the finest.

Many would agree that the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 stands among his best work. Responding to a number of major corporate accounting scandals, Senator Sarbanes' legislation began the process of trying to restore investor confidence in corporate America and our securities markets. Eighteen years later, this law continues to be a critical pillar of our financial system.

During his tenure as chair of the Joint Economic Committee in the late eighties and early nineties, Paul framed many of the important economic issues and debates that the country was experiencing at the time. He held timely hearings on income inequality, trade deficit, and unemployment during a time at which the country was only beginning to come to grips with the notion that there needed to be a different direction in our economy.

Unfortunately, our Nation is now battling a pandemic that is furthering economic inequalities, and both the Senate and the country could use and greatly misses Senator Sarbanes' thoughtfulness, incisiveness, and compassion during these difficult times.

Senator Sarbanes was also one of our Nation's greatest champions for affordable housing. He fought his entire career for our Nation's working families, trying to make it possible for more families in our country to have decent, safe, and affordable housing.

Most notably, Paul was one of the original authors of the Home Investment Partnerships Program, known as the HOME Program. This program has provided critical funding to our Nation's States and localities, helping them maintain or expand their supply of affordable housing for many Americans.

Paul also fought aggressively for funding of the section 8 voucher pro-

gram and was one of the chief supporters of improvements to our Nation's public housing programs during his Senate tenure.

Senator Sarbanes also recognized the essential role that public transportation plays in bringing communities together, fostering economic development, and promoting a cleaner environment. As ranking member of the Banking Committee, he led the effort to reauthorize the Nation's transit programs and the fight to ensure that transit received its fair share of funding.

Time after time, Paul Sarbanes did the right things for the right reasons. He could not care less whether he got the credit, the press, or the fanfare. His primary motivation was simply knowing that he made a meaningful difference in the lives of his constituents and the American people, and, in this regard, there are few who are as accomplished as Paul Sarbanes.

His keen intellect, his extensive knowledge of the issues, and his concern for Americans across this great country all contributed to his impressive body of legislative accomplishments.

Now, I had the occasion to speak with JOHN SARBANES, Congressman from Maryland, who is carrying on the proud tradition of the Sarbanes family, and he said his dad was best described as a workhorse, not a show horse, and that is right. Paul Sarbanes did the work of the people. He did not try to garner the praise and the acclaim; he just wanted to make sure the work was done and done well. And he did throughout his entire career.

My best wishes go to Paul's family, including his sons Michael Sarbanes and Representative JOHN SARBANES; his daughter Janet Sarbanes; and his grandchildren. They have lost a father and a grandfather. The country has lost one of its greatest champions. And I have lost a dear and precious friend.

May he rest in peace.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator VAN HOLLEN and myself, I want to thank our colleagues for their tribute to Senator Paul Sarbanes—Senator STABENOW and Senator REED. I know that Senator SCHUMER and Senator DURBIN have spoken on the floor. Many of us have and many have expressed their condolences through our office to the family. We just want to express our appreciation.

As Senator VAN HOLLEN said, I had the honor—or the challenge—to follow Senator Sarbanes in this body. I have his seat in the Senate. When I was sworn in almost 14 years ago, Senator Sarbanes escorted me to take the oath of office. As I mentioned earlier, he is an inspiration to all of us.

I want to thank our colleagues for the tribute they have paid to an outstanding Marylander, an outstanding American, and he will be missed by all.

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

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

#### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I am here on the floor today to talk again about the need for Congress to act to pass a COVID-19 bill that helps the people we represent. I am told this is the 20th time I have come to the floor to make this plea, meaning that I haven't been all that convincing, I guess.

But the reality is there is hope in the air. There is a bipartisan group that is working on a package. I am part of that group, as is the Presiding Officer. It is bipartisan: about five Democrats, about five Republicans.

Maybe more significantly, today the White House apparently made an offer to Speaker PELOSI to reengage in conversation to try to get to a package that meets the needs of everyone. The package that was presented was actually very similar to the package that this bipartisan group has been working on over the past few weeks. So there is hope in the air, and that is good because we need the help, and we need it now.

Let's talk for a minute about why we need this help. I would guess that pretty much everybody in this Chamber has seen firsthand the health crisis that we are facing. The number of cases is up. The number of people in intensive care is up. Hospitalizations are up. And, sadly, fatalities have increased.

Some of my colleagues in this Chamber have had to fight cases of COVID-19 themselves. Thank God they are all OK. But that is not true with everyone we represent. I would bet that everyone in this Chamber knows somebody and probably multiple people who have had a very tough time or who have even succumbed to this terrible disease.

Last week, another friend of mine died because of COVID-19. His name was Mike Crabtree. Mike was a county commissioner in Scioto County, OH—a friend, a standup guy who helped me on a lot of tough issues in Southeast Ohio. He was always there for his community and for me. Today, of course, we offer our prayers to his wife Diane, his family, and to all of his friends in Scioto County.

It is personal. In the face of these personal tragedies and the sad reality that in many States we are now experiencing this higher number of cases—in many States it is the highest we have had since the beginning of this pandemic—we do have some promising news on one front, and that is on the vaccine front.

It now seems clear that later this month, and then over the next 3 to 4 months, help is on the way in the form of very effective new vaccines being developed by Pfizer, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson, AstraZeneca, and other U.S. manufacturers.

The unprecedented support that Congress has provided for vaccine development, the Trump administration's innovative approach to cut bureaucratic redtape through what is called Operation Warp Speed, and the commitment and ingenuity of our researchers who have been working around the clock, our scientists, and our manufacturers have combined to put us on a path to having multiple vaccines, at unprecedented speed, with efficacy rates above 90 percent.

This is incredible. This is good news. Safe, effective vaccines are expected to be available to frontline healthcare workers, first responders, long-term care facilities, and others just in the next few weeks. This is good news.

Within the next few months, we would expect that these vaccines would be more broadly available, and hopefully by March, maybe April, pretty much everybody would be able to find a way to get that vaccine, free, for them and for their family. That has to be our goal here, as quickly as possible, to get safe, effective vaccines.

I am concerned—as some of my colleagues know, because I talk about it a lot—that the number of people who say they are willing to get the vaccine is too low. That is one reason I entered one of the trials myself. I am in the Janssen J&J trial. I either got the vaccine or I got a placebo—I don't know—but I did it to be able to go out and talk about it and tell people that these scientists, these experts, the people with the white coats, not the politicians, are the ones calling the shots here on these vaccines and they are being safe and they are being careful.

It is going through a process at the FDA, the Food and Drug Administration, that is actually more stringent than it was pre-COVID. To get this emergency use authorization, they have to go through more testing, and they have to show efficacy rates above 50 percent, which they normally wouldn't. That is good. We want it to be safe.

Even with all that hard work that is being done, all those scientists and researchers working around the clock, there are some Americans who are unwilling and concerned. Part of this is because some politicians, I think, have played politics with this, and I hate that—as if, somehow, in the Trump administration, this wouldn't be trusted. Of course, this is not a political game. This is about saving lives.

I am encouraged by the process that we have seen. I hope people will sign up. When I got into the trial, the Gallup poll that is being done periodically to determine whether people are saying whether they are willing to take it or not was at 50 percent—only 50 percent

of Americans saying they were comfortable getting the vaccine. That number in last couple of weeks has gone up to 58 percent. It is heading in the right direction.

We need people to understand that this is based on science. These vaccines are like the vaccine for smallpox or polio or measles—virtually, wiping out these diseases in this country. My dad had polio as a kid. Now people don't even talk about it. That is because of the vaccine. They work. We have to view it that way.

It is not like the flu vaccine, frankly. The flu vaccine is only effective about one-third of the time. These, what they call efficacy rates, meaning how effective it is, have come in at 90, 95 percent and higher. So we will see what the FDA says here in the next couple of weeks.

I am encouraged that we are likely to get some approvals and likely to begin being able to provide these vaccines for those on the frontlines, for those in long-care facilities, for our first responders, and then out from there to the entire population.

Because these vaccines won't be widely available for 3 or 4 months, we need to act here and act now to provide a bridge to more normal times. That is really how I see it. This is a short-term emergency response to a desperate need we have right now as cases are rising and the economic consequences are being felt in every family in America—more and more pain.

My hope is that Congress will make good on the promise we have seen over the last couple of weeks, where Republicans and Democrats, alike, have come together to say we do have a lot of common ground here; we actually agree on most of this stuff. Who wouldn't be for more money for vaccines and distribution? We need that. Who wouldn't be for more money for small businesses? Who wouldn't be for more money for people who are losing their jobs through no fault of their own? They are struggling to pay the rent and pay their car payment. That is what this legislation can do. I am excited about that possibility.

Meanwhile, in the first week of December, we have lost 13,726 Americans to COVID-19 compared to half that many in the first week of November. In 1 month, we have had a doubling of the number of fatalities. At no point in time during this pandemic have we seen daily mortality rates like this, except in the early days in March and April when New York and New Jersey hospitals were being overrun. We have a real crisis.

Of course, this healthcare crisis is having a direct impact on the economy too. Even with these vaccines on the horizon, it is clear we have to do more to help the economy get through this period of time before we are back to more a normal time.

We have to help, in the short term, to address the impact this healthcare crisis is having on families, on employ-

ment, on businesses, on schools, on nonprofits, and, yes, on State and local governments. As I see it, our job is to provide that bridge so that the economic rebound that we have begun to see can continue.

I am concerned that the recovery we have seen, which has been called a K-shaped recovery—you know, you like to see a recovery come in a V-shape, where you have a recession, you lose jobs and economic growth, and then it comes back up the way it went down. It is called a V-shape. This has been more like a “K.”

For some people, it has been OK. If you are a big-box hardware store or grocery store in America, you are probably doing pretty well right now. If you are a small business, say, a small retail store or sitdown restaurant next to those big boxes, you are not doing OK. You may already be closed down. Your employees may already be unemployed. If not, you are hanging by a thread and hoping and praying that Congress passes legislation to help you.

It has been different for different people. If you have a blue-collar job, you can't telework. If you are in the financial services industry, you are probably doing OK, but if you work in a kitchen making 15 bucks an hour, you are probably not. So it is different for different people in different sectors of our economy. I get that. For some, again, they are doing OK; for others, they are really struggling.

Poverty, overall, is up because of what is happening, and this is sad to me. And we can see it in our communities. Go to your local food bank, see how many cars are lined up, how many people are waiting for 3, 4, 5, in Ohio, sometimes 6 hours just to get food for their families.

Before the pandemic hit, we had very strong economic growth. I think the pro-growth policies that were put in place here in Congress really helped. The tax reform, the tax cuts, the regulatory relief, using our energy—it all was working. We were having a period of growth that was strong, but also it was a very “opportunity” economy. People who had been on the sidelines for years were coming back into our economy. A lot of the benefits were being felt by lower and middle-income workers.

Let me give you an example. In February of this year, just before the pandemic started, we had 19 straight months of wage growth of over 3 percent. That is fantastic. We have been wanting that for a decade and a half in Ohio. We had flat wages, even not keeping up with inflation. Finally, we were seeing wage growth. That 3 percent was compounding and was really helping people feel like if they worked hard and played by the rules, they could get ahead. Sadly, when the coronavirus hit, that ended.

Before the coronavirus, the national poverty rate was the lowest in the history of America. In February, it was 10.5 percent, the lowest rate since we

started tracking this statistic more than 60 years ago. That is the poverty rate. That is incredible. That is what we all want.

After the initial wave of layoffs in the spring, Congress passed the bipartisan CARES Act. That was 9 months ago—9 months ago. It included programs like the stimulus checks and expanded unemployment insurance. It actually helped drive the poverty rate down for a while.

Since then, this continual economic pain felt particularly by low- and middle-income Americans, combined with the lack of action on our part here in Congress to help them, has meant the poverty rate has actually gone back up since May by a significant amount. It now sits at 11.4 percent. That means that 7 million more Americans have fallen into poverty since the spring—7 million.

When you fall into poverty, it is hard to get back out. As long as this economy remains partly shut down—in some of our States, it is largely shut down if you are in the hospitality business or travel business. As long as this happens and we can see more shutdowns in the coming weeks and months, of course, as this crisis continues to worsen, we will see poverty levels rise unless we provide some relief.

Along with the rising poverty rate, what is concerning to me is the fact that more and more people are just giving up hope. There is a stat called the labor force participation rate. It is the share of Americans who are over 16 years old, either working or looking for a job. In February, we hit a 5-year high for labor force participation. That is a good thing. In other words, we had more people participating in the workforce than we had in 5 years.

Unfortunately, it has gone back down. It was up to 63.4 percent. Now it is down to 61.7 percent. The October number works out to a labor force that has nearly 4 million fewer participants than it did in February. Just people participating in the economy has gone down.

Why do we need this package? We have a real problem on our hands. It is a healthcare crisis, but it is also an economic crisis for so many people.

Unfortunately, a record number of women and older Americans are also having to leave the workplace due to either a lack of opportunity or the need to stay home with their kids. For a lot of women, not having childcare is a real problem because the schools are closed. This is driving people out of the workforce as well. This is bad news for businesses trying to reopen, but it is also bad news for our long-term economic health.

People who can't find a way off the sidelines right now won't be able to help power the eventual economic recovery we all hope for, and they will miss out on the economic recovery that does happen. It is a bad position to be in.

We saw with last week's jobs report that hiring is slowing down, meaning that more people may slip out of the labor force. In all, we are still down 10 million jobs in America since February.

Some of my colleagues said to me: My town is doing great or my State is doing great or this industry is doing great. I get that. It is a K-shaped recovery. For some people, it is going well. The fact is that 10 million people—10 million people—that is how many jobs we are down since February.

A further slowdown in the economy is going to be tough for these long-term unemployed. My concern is some may never reenter the workforce without action here to help businesses start hiring again. Some of the hardest hit industries in our States, like the travel, leisure, hospitality industries, are facing real losses.

Our airline industry is expected to cut the equivalent of about 90,000 jobs by the end of this year—90,000 jobs alone in the airline industry. I spoke to the president of American Airlines today. They are big in Ohio. He called. Guess what. He is really eager for us to pass this coronavirus legislation we are talking about. He is really eager because he needs it desperately to hold on to his employees. He doesn't want to furlough any more people, but he doesn't have the business to keep them working.

According to a November survey from the American Hotel and Lodging Association, more than 70 percent of hotels have said that they won't be able to stay in business another 6 months without more assistance—70 percent. Almost 80 percent said they had to lay off more people.

Our restaurant industry lost jobs in November for the first time since April. It is a worrying sign that while restaurants were starting to pick up, things were getting better, in November, because of the news of the high level of cases and the concern people had about going out in public and also, in some States, because of a government edict saying you can't go—in some places, they even said you can't have outdoor dining anymore, not just indoor dining. Think of what this does to those restaurants, most of which are small businesses, family-owned, and were already stressed. Some of those restaurants have closed their doors. I know some of them are never going to reopen again. It is not just restaurants. It is bowling alleys; it is movie theaters; it is the place you get your hair cut. A lot of them are suffering.

A lot of these challenges are going to get worse soon because the number of the programs we put in place in this pandemic to help provide relief for people struggling are going to expire. That is another reason we have to act.

At the end of this year—actually, the day before Christmas—we are going to see some of these programs begin to expire. The pandemic unemployment assistance program that helps the self-

employed, that helps gig economy workers, people who would not normally be eligible for unemployment to be able to step forward and get unemployment insurance, is going to end at the end of this month. That is something a lot of my constituents in Ohio have been depending on if they have lost their jobs through no fault of their own.

The pandemic emergency employment compensation program that authorizes another 13 weeks of State benefits, helped by the Federal tax dollar, ends at the end of this month.

Of course, there is a moratorium on evictions that ends at the end of this month.

The bottom line is that the people, State and local governments, the industries, the sectors of our economy that have been hardest hit to date by the economic crisis caused by COVID-19 are going to be the ones who are likely to be hurt most by a continued economic slowdown.

As I said, these are problems that, right now, can only be fixed by all of us stepping forward. Congress needs to take action and take action now. We have about a week. We have about a week.

Fortunately, again, I am pleased to say that the proposal that is in the works on a bipartisan basis here in the Senate is going to help. It has a total price tag of \$908 billion, and you have all heard that, probably, if you have been following what has been going on with this continuing negotiation.

It helps everybody. It helps individuals; it helps families; it helps small businesses; it helps industries; it helps those who have been the hardest hit—with targeted resources. It is focused. It is targeted. It is not the \$3.5 trillion legislation that has been talked about over the last several months. It is targeted. It is focused. Actually, although it is \$908 billion, it is really more like \$350 billion because it takes back money that was spent in the CARES Act, which was appropriated by this Congress but not used, and repurposes it for these purposes. So I think it is a focused, targeted effort that will really help.

Again, what is exciting about it is that, today, there was a proposal made that says we have this bipartisan framework, which is very similar, apparently, and my hope is that the Speaker of the House, the majority leader here in the Senate, the Democratic leader here in the Senate, the Republican leader in the House, and the President of the United States can all figure out how to get together and make this work. This bipartisan proposal that we have been working on here, I think, does provide a good template. By the way, all of those actors I talked about—all of those players—have said good things about the proposal.

It has funding in there to extend the Paycheck Protection Program for small businesses. It targets those small

businesses that need the help the most. It is really more targeted this time. It is targeted relief for some of our hardest hit industries, including our airlines and our mass transit industry.

It includes funds to help those Americans who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own—the unemployment insurance extension that I talked about earlier. As a bridge to normalcy, we need this funding. It provides funds for State, local, and Tribal governments based on their revenue shortfalls or their expenses due to COVID—in other words, needs-based.

We are also working on commonsense liability reforms to give businesses, nonprofits, schools, healthcare providers, religious organizations, and others the legal protection they need to reopen with the confidence that they are not going to be subjected to frivolous lawsuits that could put them out of business. That is really important because getting these businesses back up and running is a critical part of getting our economy through these next few months. In my view, these protections are essential.

I am hopeful that both sides can now come together and find common ground on liability protections that we can all support. Several of my colleagues are working on a proposal here, right now, in the U.S. Senate. All of this gives us hope that we will have better days around the corner.

By the way, this proposal is not what any of us would write. It is not the proposal I would write. It is not the proposal our Presiding Officer, who is here in the Chamber, would write. Personally, I would put more emphasis on tax incentives for hiring. We have some good proposals for that. I would put tax incentives in place to get businesses to reopen safely—one called the healthy workplaces tax credit so they could get compensated for putting up the partitions or for having the PPE and providing safer work environments. I would expand the work opportunity tax credit to help those, again, who are on the sidelines in order to bring them back to work through a credit. I would help with regard to the employee retention credit, which was in the CARES Act, that could pick up some of these companies that aren't picked up by the PPP program, companies that have slightly more employees, let's say, so that they don't otherwise qualify.

So there is more I would like to do, but do you know what? This proposal is needed. It is needed so badly that, of course, all of us, regardless of our particular interests or our particular ideas, know it is right, and all of us should get behind it. Let's not make the perfect the enemy of the good—I would even say the enemy of the necessary. Targeted relief now, I think, is the right approach.

Most importantly, all of these significant economic problems I laid out and the healthcare crisis I laid out need to be addressed now. As I said ear-

lier, there is a light at the end of the tunnel for the health side of this crisis, and our proposal that I have been talking about also helps us get there because it has more funding for vaccine development and vaccine distribution. I talked today to some experts in that area who know a lot more about it than I do, and they said it is necessary. We actually have to provide more funding to keep the vaccine train moving so that, by March and April, we will have it widely available. Again, my hope is that Americans will step up and be vaccinated.

By the way, there is also bipartisan legislation that four of us introduced last week—two Republicans, two Democrats—to provide for a public service campaign, not with politicians talking about the importance, as I am doing tonight, but with the experts talking about why the science says that it is a good idea to get vaccinated—again, just like we do for smallpox or polio or the measles.

Will another COVID-19 bill solve every problem we face right now? No, but we could do a lot with this proposal to help the most vulnerable individuals just get by for the next several months rather than slip into poverty, rather than miss out on mortgage payments or miss out on their rent, miss out on their car payments, and other bad outcomes. We can help the most vulnerable businesses keep their lights on and their employees on payroll. Frankly, this is work we should have been doing months ago, but we are here now. Let's get it done.

My hope is that we can end this year by recapturing that spirit of bipartisanship that was on display in March of this year when we passed the CARES package here in the U.S. Senate by a vote of 96 to nothing. That doesn't happen very often. The CARES Act was not a perfect bill either, but we all recognized it was a bill needed for the moment. I hope we can also recognize that another bill is needed now even if it is not perfect. Let's build on the bipartisan proposal we have put forward, and let's ensure that the people we represent get the targeted economic relief they desperately need in the coming months.

Folks, let's not leave for the holidays until we have done that.

I yield the floor.

#### TRIBUTE TO TOM UDALL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, when Senator TOM UDALL announced last year that he would not seek reelection, he said, "The worst thing anyone in public office can do is believe the office belongs to them, rather than to the people they represent." Throughout his more than three decades of service to his State and to our Nation, TOM has demonstrated time and again his adherence to that principle. As New Mexico's attorney general, Congressman, and Senator, he has always treated public office as a public trust.

Everyone who serves in this Chamber takes an oath to support and defend our Constitution. That remarkable document begins with three words TOM lives by, "We the People."

That commitment to our Constitution was put to the test in early 2019 when the President issued an emergency declaration that diverted \$ 3.6 billion from 127 military construction projects that Congress duly approved and funded and the President had signed into law. TOM stood strong against this clear violation of the separation of powers doctrine that is so vital to our enduring Republic, and I was proud to stand with him.

In a powerful floor statement on the resolution we introduced to overturn the emergency declaration, TOM got right to the point. He said:

This is no longer about the president's wall. This is not about party. This is about protecting the very heart of our American system of governance. Congress—and only Congress—holds the power of the purse.

TOM also made clear that this encroachment upon Congress's authority was not an isolated incident but part of a dangerous pattern Congress has permitted over many decades and under many Presidents. And make no mistake—the hyperpartisanship that afflicts Congress far too often aids and abets this lamentable historical trend. By pursuing a bipartisan response to this Executive overreach, TOM helped to make real progress in defending the separation of powers.

It has been a pleasure to work with TOM on many other issues over the years. From land conservation and environmental protection to rural health care and pandemic relief, he has been an informed and effective legislative partner.

TOM leaves the Senate with an impressive record of accomplishments. Even more important, he leaves a legacy of reverence for our Constitution and courage in defending it. I thank him for his service to the people of our Nation and wish him well in the years to come.

#### REMEMBERING ERNIE BAPTISTA

• Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, we recently lost a great Rhode Islander, Ernie Baptista.

Ernie was immensely successful in his professional life; his wise counsel was sought not just around the country but around the globe. Ernie was also a civic-minded community leader at home, with a passion for politics. He immersed himself in Rhode Island's political whirl, where he was well liked and well regarded by people of many different political perspectives. Ernie's keen insight and advice was relied upon by many candidates, including myself and Senator REED. We both treasured Ernie's quick wit, sharp intellect, and great sense of humor. He was bright, insightful, and loyal and always provided wise counsel.

Ernie enjoyed the good things in life: good friends, good meals, and good

works. We will fondly remember Ernie with a trademark cigar in hand and a smile on his face and the way his presence filled every room he entered. We will remember his generous and kind spirit, which lifted us all.

Our deepest condolences go to Ernie's beloved family, Sharon, Peter, and Jennifer. We mourn your great loss.

To Ernie, rest in peace, dear friend.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DAVID E. BENOR

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I am honored to thank and congratulate one of my constituents and one of the Federal Government's unsung heroes, David E. "Dave" Benor, who is retiring on January 3, 2021, after more than 48 years of service as a public health attorney at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the General Counsel, HHS-OGC.

After graduating from Harvard Law School in 1972, Mr. Benor began his career at HHS-OGC and never left, rising to positions of increasing responsibility throughout the years. Since 2004, he has served as the Associate General Counsel for Public Health. In this leadership role, he has led HHS-OGC's Public Health Division, a 100-person office within HHS-OGC that provides legal services to the Assistant Secretary for Health, the Surgeon General, and multiple agencies that comprise the Public Health Service, including the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Indian Health Service, the Health Services and Resources Administration, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Mr. Benor has worked extensively on product liability, grant law, organ transplant, and vaccine issues, and has particular expertise with the Public Health Service safety net programs, in public health emergency response issues, and in implementing regulatory and compensation programs.

Mr. Benor has dedicated his entire career to implementing HHS's mission to advance the health of all people. He has done this by providing authoritative legal advice on major health initiatives, including those related to bioterrorism preparedness, biomedical research, organ transplantation, vaccine development and liability, and the provision of healthcare to medically underserved populations through such programs as the community health center program, the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, and maternal and child health grants. He has been a key legal adviser on the Department's international health initiatives, including Afghan and Iraqi reconstruction, global AIDS programs, and quarantine activities for diseases such as SARS, pandemic influenza, and monkey pox, and has been part of multidisciplinary teams working on the public health response to the War on Terrorism, including the response to anthrax attacks, smallpox vaccine development,

COVID-19, and pharmaceutical stockpile development.

Mr. Benor has received numerous awards throughout his career. In 2012, President Barack Obama awarded Mr. Benor the Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Executive, one of the highest awards that a career Senior Executive Service member may receive.

Dave Benor's impact on public health will be felt for years to come both through his work on a wide variety of public health programs and by the inspiring example he has provided for the many attorneys with whom he worked and mentored. I was pleased to have a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend as a symbol of our Nation's thanks to this outstanding public servant.

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dave Benor for his distinguished service to our country and to wish him all the best in the coming years as he enjoys his well-earned retirement.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO SCOTT FRYE

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, today I rise to honor the career of New Hampshire State Trooper Scott Frye, who recently retired from the force.

A native of Milford, NH, Scott served with the New Hampshire State Police for more than 22 years as a road trooper, a member of the narcotics unit, and most recently as head of the executive protection detail. During his time in executive protection, Scott served under three Governors, including for 4 years during my time as Governor.

Through our work together, I saw firsthand Scott's commitment to the Granite State. He always sees the big picture; he can step into a room and immediately assess it and the people in it, both as a security risk, but also for need. Scott can find a way to connect with and put almost anyone at ease. As a result, he is greeted as a welcome friend wherever he goes in New Hampshire.

While Scott served for nearly a dozen years on the security detail of Governors, he never lost sight of his commitment and obligation to protect the safety of every person in New Hampshire.

Scott's experience and deep understanding of the Granite State were an important benefit to those he worked with. When we would travel to sites of natural disasters during my time as Governor, Scott always had a sense about who needed to be checked in with and what a community or a public safety official needed in challenging times. Even when his day ended and he was officially off-duty, if he were on his way home and an extra State trooper was needed, he would be there to help in any way that he could.

Perhaps nothing exemplifies Scott's dedication, bravery, and heroism more

than when he was driving Governor John Lynch in 2012 and they witnessed an accident. A car had gone through a guardrail, fallen into an embankment, and caught fire. Scott pulled over, and along with an off-duty firefighter, freed a man who was trapped in the vehicle—just seconds before it was engulfed in flames. For his lifesaving action, Scott was honored with a number of awards, including a Carnegie Medal, a national honor that recognizes those who risk their lives to an extraordinary degree while saving or attempting to save the lives of others.

Throughout his service, Scott approached everything with humor, kindness, and patience. He never complained, and he always served with an incredible amount of professionalism.

Above all, Scott's main commitment was to his family. His service would not have been possible without the support and love of his wife Susan, his sons Zachary and Matthew, and his extended family.

I am grateful for Scott's friendship and his years of dedication to the people of New Hampshire. His retirement is well-deserved, and I know that he will continue to look for ways to improve his community and the entire Granite State.

I hope that you will join me in recognizing the years of service of State Trooper Scott Frye.●

##### REMEMBERING DEE BENSON

● Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Judge Dee Benson, who passed away this week after a heroic battle with cancer. Dee had a remarkable and far-reaching legal career, making an impact throughout Utah and the country. But even more than that, he has made an indelible mark as a beloved teacher, mentor, role model, and friend.

Dee grew up on small farm in Jordan, UT, across from the old Jordan High School. He served a 2-year mission in Sweden for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and afterwards attended BYU, graduating in 1973 with a degree in physical education. After a brief stint as a student teacher and soccer coach at Hillcrest High, he decided to change career paths and on a whim applied to law school.

Dee stumbled onto what would become a brilliant vocation in law. He was one of the very first law students at Brigham Young University, when my late father, Rex Lee, was founding BYU's J. Reuben Clark Law School. Dee quickly took to law, grasping legal concepts with speed and ease, and soon became a star of his class, even without spending all his time in the library. He was an equally affable student, loved by all of his classmates. A gifted athlete, he still managed to participate in school activities and sports while in law school, even playing for the soccer team during his final year and finishing near the top of his class.

After graduating in 1976, Dee spent a few months playing professional soccer

with the Utah Golden Spikers of the American Soccer League, and then turned to his law career. He started out in private practice, first at Marineau and Mack and then at Christensen and Martineau. He would later be appointed to positions at the highest levels of law by Presidents, Chief Justices, and Senators.

He came to Washington first to work as counsel for the Senate Judiciary Committee. Dee was then-Senator Orrin Hatch's chief of staff for 2 years and while there served as counsel on the Iran-Contra Congressional Investigating Committee. He worked as U.S. attorney from 1989 until 1991, when he was appointed by President George H.W. Bush to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of Utah, where he served for nearly three decades.

As Federal judge, he was appointed as one of the seven judges to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act Court by Chief Justice William Rehnquist, frequently flying to Washington to review requests for warrants and wiretaps against suspected spies and terrorists. He was also appointed by Chief Justice John Roberts to serve on the Judicial Conference of the United States, a policy-making body within the Federal judicial system.

Dee had a deep love of the law and true impartiality as a jurist. In all of his duties, he never sought to impose his own agenda but simply to get the law right—not according to his own personal beliefs or feelings but as he understood it. And as much as Dee loved the law, he was loved by those around him. He brought kindness, humor, and fun to every environment. He was known to keep a bicycle in his chambers and a dart board for his clerks.

I myself was lucky enough to have him as my first boss when I clerked for him the year after I graduated from law school. I learned more about the practice of law during that clerkship than I did during all 3 years of law school combined. I will never forget our countless conversations about the law—deep dives on everything from compelled-speech doctrine, the coconspirator hearsay rule, and the requirements for authenticating so-called “ancient documents” under the Federal Rules of Evidence—in the courtroom and in his chambers and sometimes even while mountain biking or during a game of ping pong or darts.

Everyone at the courthouse—from the prosecutors to the defense counsel, from civil litigants to criminal defendants, from probation officers to support staff—loved and learned daily from Judge Benson. Despite his keen intellect and prominence, he was one of the most humble, genuine people I have ever known. He cared deeply about the happiness of those around them and left everyone more happy and encouraged than when he found them. He treated each person who came into his courtroom with dignity and respect, no matter who you were.

Throughout the years, Dee retained his passion for sports and zest for life. He ran marathons, was an avid mountain biker, and mastered every sport that caught his interest. He was a devoted father who, despite the many demands on his time, seemed to maintain constant contact with each of his four children, taking delight in every word they uttered and every activity they pursued.

Even his cancer diagnosis would not dampen his spirit or slow him down. After being partially paralyzed and bedridden this past May, by the end of the month he had returned to his chambers in Salt Lake City and had come into work as recently as last week—steadfast and strong until the end.

Judge Dee Benson was a true public servant, a gift to Utah and to everyone who had the good fortune to meet him. For those of us who knew and loved Dee, the world will now seem incomplete; but it has been an honor and a blessing to call him a mentor and a friend. ●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

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

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

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:17 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1153. An act to explicitly make unauthorized access to Department of Education information technology systems and the misuse of identification devices issued by the Department of Education a criminal act.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 461. An act to strengthen the capacity and competitiveness of historically Black colleges and universities through robust public-sector, private-sector, and community partnerships and engagement, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 8428. An act to provide for temporary protected status for residents of Hong Kong, and for other purposes.

#### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The President Pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY) announced that on today,

December 8, 2020, he has signed the following enrolled bills, which were previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

S. 910. An act to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes.

S. 945. An act to amend the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 to require certain issuers to disclose to the Securities and Exchange Commission information regarding foreign jurisdictions that prevent the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board from performing inspections under that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1069. An act to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a constituent-driven program to provide a digital information platform capable of efficiently integrating coastal data with decision-support tools, training, and best practices and to support collection of priority coastal geospatial data to inform and improve local, State, regional, and Federal capacities to manage the coastal region, and for other purposes.

S. 1982. An act to improve efforts to combat marine debris, and for other purposes.

S. 4054. An act to reauthorize the United States Grain Standards Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3349. An act to authorize the Daughters of the Republic of Texas to establish the Republic of Texas Legation Memorial as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3465. An act to authorize the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

At 6:29 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 report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 6395) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 8428. An act to provide for temporary protected status for residents of Hong Kong, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 8, 2020, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 910. An act to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes.

S. 945. An act to amend the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 to require certain issuers to disclose to the Securities and Exchange Commission information regarding foreign jurisdictions that prevent the Public Company



Accounting Oversight Board from performing inspections under that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1069. An act to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a constituent-driven program to provide a digital information platform capable of efficiently integrating coastal data with decision-support tools, training, and best practices and to support collection of priority coastal geospatial data to inform and improve local, State, regional, and Federal capacities to manage the coastal region, and for other purposes.

S. 1982. An act to improve efforts to combat marine debris, and for other purposes.

S. 4054. An act to reauthorize the United States Grain Standards Act, and for other purposes.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-6036. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, General Law and Research Division, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Agriculture, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6037. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, General Law and Research Division, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, three (3) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Agriculture, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6038. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule Amending Certain Civil Monetary Penalties for Inflation Pursuant to the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990" (31 CFR Parts 501, 510, 535, 536, 541, 542, 544, 546, 547, 548, 549, 560, 561, 566, 576, 583, 584, 588, 592, 594, 597, and 598) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6039. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Statement on Central Counterparties Authorized under the European Markets Infrastructure Regulation Seeking to Register as a Clearing Agency or to Request Exemption from Certain Requirements Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6040. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Commission Statement on Certain Provisions of Business Conduct Standards for Security-Based Swap Dealers and Major Security-Based Swap Participants" (RIN3235-AL10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6041. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign

Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule Amending the North Korea Sanctions Regulations" (31 CFR Parts 510) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6042. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule Amending the Zimbabwe Sanctions Regulations" (31 CFR Parts 541) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6043. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule to Implement the Syria-related Sanctions Regulations as a New Part 569 in 31 CFR Chapter V" (31 CFR Part 569) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6044. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule Amending the Nicaragua Sanctions Regulations, 31 CFR Part 582, to Incorporate the Nicaragua Human Rights and Anticorruption Act of 2018" (31 CFR Parts 582) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6045. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule Amending Appendix A of the Reporting, Procedures, and Penalties Regulations, 31 CFR Part 501, to Amend the Definition of 'Applicable Schedule Amount' Contained in Appendix A" (31 CFR Part 501) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6046. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule Amending the Economic Sanctions Enforcement Guidelines in OFAC's Reporting, Procedures and Penalties Regulations, 31 CFR Part 501 Appendix A" (31 CFR Part 501) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6047. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule Making Amendments to 31 CFR Part 515, the Cuban Asset Control Regulations" (31 CFR Part 515) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6048. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule to Implement the International Criminal Court-Related Sanctions Regulations as a New Part 520 in 31 CFR Chapter V" (31 CFR Parts 520) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6049. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule Amending the Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferators Sanctions Regulations, 31 CFR Part 544, and the Iranian Transactions and Sanctions Regulations, 31 CFR Part 560" (31 CFR Parts 544, and 560) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6050. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule Making Amendments to 31 CFR Part 515, the Cuban Assets Control Regulations" (31 CFR Part 515) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6051. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Organ Procurement Organizations Conditions for Coverage: Revisions to the Outcome Measure Requirements for Organ Procurement Organizations; Final Rule" (RIN0938-AU02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6052. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Most Favored Nation (MFN) Model (CMS-5528-IFC)" (RIN0938-AT91) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6053. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Acquisition and Assistance, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Leave and Holidays for U.S. Personal Services Contractors, Including Family and Medical Leave" (RIN0412-AA86) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6054. A communication from the Executive Secretary, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Administrator, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6055. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Acquisition and Assistance, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "The Rules for Procurement of Certain Essential Medical Supplies Financed by USAID during the COVID-19 Pandemic" (RIN0412-AB02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6056. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits" (29 CFR Part 4022) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6057. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Information Blocking and the ONC Health IT Certification Program: Extension of Compliance Dates and Timeframes in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency" (RIN0955-AA02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6058. A communication from the Director of Rural Development, Rural Housing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing Change in Initial Guarantee Fee and Annual Guarantee Fee" (RIN0575-AD15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6059. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "21st Century Cures Act: Interoperability, Information Blocking, and the ONC Health IT Certification Program" (RIN0955-AA01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6060. A communication from the Section Chief of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention That Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act of 2018: Dispensing and Administering Controlled Substances for Medication-Assisted Treatment" ((RIN1117-AB55) (Docket No. DEA-499)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6061. A communication from the Executive Director of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Methods of Withdrawing Funds from the Thrift Savings Plan" (5 CFR Parts 1650) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6062. A communication from the Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for USAID's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6063. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2021-02, Introduction" (FAC 2021-02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6064. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting two (2) legislative proposals relative to the President of the United States' Fiscal Year 2021 budget request for the Department of Homeland Security; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6065. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pur-

suant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6066. A communication from the Assistant Administrator of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of Olceridine in Schedule II" ((21 CFR Part 1308) (Docket No. DEA-715)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-6067. A communication from the Program Analyst, International Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "In the Matter of Further Streamlining of Part 25 Rules Governing Satellite Services" ((FCC 20-159) (IB Docket No. 18-134)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6068. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision of the Commission's Part 76 Review Procedures, Modernization of Media Regulation Initiative, Revision of the Commission's Program Carriage Rules" ((MB Docket No. 20-70, 17-105, and 11-131) (FCC 20-162)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

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

S. 3152. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to incorporate data on maternal health outcomes into its broadband health maps (Rept. No. 116-304).

By Mr. MORAN, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 4393. A bill to improve the provision of health care and other benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans who were exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

S. 4511. A bill to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to education, burial benefits, and other matters, and for other purposes.

## 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. WICKER (for himself and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 4972. A bill to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support STEM education and workforce development research focused on rural areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. KING, Mr. SASSE, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BURR, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. COTTON):

S. 4973. A bill to amend the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 to authorize the provision of compensation to personnel of the Central Intelligence Agency who incur disabilities resulting from certain injuries to the brain, to authorize the provision of compensation to personnel of the Department of State who incur similar disabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KING:

S. 4974. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a refundable tax credit for the installation of energy efficient air source heat pumps; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 4975. A bill to require covered entities to implement and disclose information moderation policies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 4976. A bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to reform the Generalized System of Preferences to better protect United States workers; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 4977. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to require that a court decree, court order, or other similar process expressly provides for an annuity supplement payment; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. HAWLEY, and Ms. ERNST):

S. 4978. A bill to require a study and report on a potential transfer of Israel to the area of responsibility of the United States Central Command; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 4979. A bill to terminate the Department of Education; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KING:

S. 4980. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to support research and programmatic efforts that will build on previous research on the effects of adverse childhood experiences; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 4981. A bill to support research on privacy enhancing technologies and promote responsible data use, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. COTTON):

S. 4982. A bill to provide incentives for the production of semiconductors for the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. Res. 796. A resolution recognizing the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. BALDWIN,

Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. JONES, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 797. A resolution honoring the life and achievements of former United States Senator Paul Spyros Sarbanes and expressing condolences to the family of Paul Spyros Sarbanes on his passing; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. PETERS:

S. Con. Res. 51. A concurrent resolution correcting the enrollment of S. 1869; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 307

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 307, a bill to amend the Clayton Act to modify the standard for an unlawful acquisition, and for other purposes.

S. 560

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. 560, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans provide coverage for treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect.

S. 633

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from South Da-

kota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 633, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women's Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the "Six Triple Eight".

S. 983

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 983, a bill to amend the Energy Conservation and Production Act to reauthorize the weatherization assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. 3072

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3072, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to prohibit the approval of new abortion drugs, to prohibit investigational use exemptions for abortion drugs, and to impose additional regulatory requirements with respect to previously approved abortion drugs, and for other purposes.

S. 3250

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3250, a bill to ensure U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers, agents, and other personnel have adequate synthetic opioid detection equipment, that the Department of Homeland Security has a process to update synthetic opioid detection capability, and for other purposes.

S. 3418

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3418, a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to allow the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide capitalization grants to States to establish revolving funds to provide hazard mitigation assistance to reduce risks from disasters and natural hazards, and other related environmental harm.

S. 4258

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4258, a bill to establish a grant program for small live venue operators and talent representatives.

S. 4433

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4433, a bill to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

S. 4461

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator

from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. 4461, a bill to provide for a period of continuing appropriations in the event of a lapse in appropriations under the normal appropriations process, and establish procedures and consequences in the event of a failure to enact appropriations.

S. 4564

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4564, a bill to authorize the location of a memorial on the National Mall to commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces that served on active duty in support of the Global War on Terrorism, and for other purposes.

S. 4593

At the request of Mr. BURR, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) were added as cosponsors of S. 4593, a bill to award posthumously the Congressional Gold Medal to Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley.

S. 4613

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4613, a bill to amend the Fairness to Contact Lens Consumers Act to prevent certain automated calls and to require notice of the availability of contact lens prescriptions to patients, and for other purposes.

S. 4711

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 4711, a bill to provide for judicial security and privacy.

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4711, *supra*.

S. 4730

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4730, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue quarter dollars in commemoration of the Nineteenth Amendment, and for other purposes.

S. 4848

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4848, a bill to continue the whole-of-government approach to ending global wildlife poaching and trafficking by permanently reauthorizing the activities of the Presidential Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking, and for other purposes.

S. 4898

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma

(Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 4898, a bill to amend title VI of the Social Security Act to extend the period during which States, Indian Tribes, and local governments may use Coronavirus Relief Fund payments.

S. 4927

At the request of Mr. KING, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4927, a bill to exclude EIDL advance amounts from the calculation of loan forgiveness under the paycheck protection program, and for other purposes.

S. 4965

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4965, a bill to regulate the posting of personal information of government officials on the internet, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 81

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 81, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to prohibit the use of slavery and involuntary servitude as a punishment for a crime.

S. CON. RES. 50

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 50, a concurrent resolution urging the establishment of a United States Commission on Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation.

S. RES. 709

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 709, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the August 13, 2020, and September 11, 2020, announcements of the establishment of full diplomatic relations between the State of Israel and the United Arab Emirates and the State of Israel and the Kingdom of Bahrain are historic achievements.

S. RES. 774

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 774, a resolution honoring the United Nations World Food Programme on the occasion of being awarded the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize.

S. RES. 778

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 778, a resolution recognizing Interscholastic Athletic Administrators' Day on December 15, 2020.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

## SENATE RESOLUTION 796—RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. BOOKER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 796

Whereas President Franklin Delano Roosevelt coined the phrase "United Nations" in January 1942;

Whereas 50 countries met in San Francisco to draw up the Charter of the United Nations in 1945;

Whereas, on June 26, 1945, the Charter of the United Nations was signed in San Francisco at the conclusion of the United Nations Conference on International Organization, and came into force on October 24, 1945;

Whereas, June 26, 2020, marked the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations;

Whereas, on September 10, 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which is the cornerstone for modern-day human rights and the world's most translated document;

Whereas, in September 1960, 17 newly independent countries, including 16 from Africa, joined the United Nations, marking the biggest increase in membership in any one year;

Whereas the United Nations has greatly contributed to international peace and security;

Whereas the United Nations has provided a forum for the achievement of international cooperation to address international economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian problems, including promoting cooperation on climate change, supporting human rights, and combating human trafficking;

Whereas, since 1948, the United Nations has deployed 71 peacekeeping and observation missions to some of the world's most complex regions and countries;

Whereas the United Nations peacekeeping missions have been charged with mandates to stabilize conflict zones after a cease-fire, assist in the implementation of comprehensive peace agreements, protect civilians from violence, facilitate delivery of humanitarian assistance to vulnerable communities, and create stable governing institutions in fragile states;

Whereas the United Nations peacekeepers played an instrumental role in stabilizing Liberia following two devastating civil wars, paving the way in 2018 for the first peaceful transition of power between democratically elected Presidents in the country since 1944;

Whereas the United Nations peacekeepers helped to avert a genocide in the Central African Republic, continue to protect tens of thousands of civilians from ethnic and political violence in South Sudan, provide security to health workers battling the second largest Ebola outbreak in history in eastern Congo, and play an important role in ensuring that calm and stability prevail along the Israel-Lebanon border;

Whereas, in 2006, under the leadership of the United Nations, member nations adopted

the first-ever global strategy to counter terrorism, which was followed by other global agreements, including agreements against hostage taking, aircraft hijacking, terrorism bombings, and terrorism financing;

Whereas the United States has used its permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council to push for the adoption of multilateral sanctions, including asset freezes, travel bans, arms embargoes, trade restrictions, and other measures, against terrorist organizations like al-Qaida and ISIS, rogue states that seek to obtain weapons of mass destruction like North Korea, and countries embroiled by internal armed conflict such as South Sudan;

Whereas the United Nations has provided electoral assistance to more than 100 countries and helped facilitate the transition to democracy in these countries, observing landmark elections in Cambodia, El Salvador, South Africa, Mozambique, Timor-Leste, Liberia, Iraq, Nepal, Afghanistan, and Sierra Leone;

Whereas the United Nations adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015, requiring member nations to commit to eradicating extreme poverty, fighting inequality, empowering women and girls, protecting natural resources, improving governance, and encouraging sustainable and inclusive economic growth;

Whereas the United Nations has played a critical role in improving global public health, including through the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS;

Whereas the World Health Organization, a United Nations specialized agency, serves as a multilateral coordinating body responsible for monitoring and leading the response to outbreaks of infectious disease, spearheading vaccination efforts, and developing campaigns to combat life-threatening illnesses like polio and malaria;

Whereas the World Health Organization played a central role in the eradication of smallpox in 1979, to date the only human disease ever to be eradicated;

Whereas the United Nations Population Fund aims to end the unmet need for family planning, end preventable maternal deaths, and end gender-based violence and harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation by 2030 in all countries, including those affected by conflict and disaster;

Whereas the United Nations Population Fund has helped reduce maternal mortality by half since 1990;

Whereas the United Nations Children's Fund is active in 190 countries and territories to reach the children and young people in greatest need;

Whereas the United Nations World Food Program reaches more than 86,000,000 people in 83 countries annually;

Whereas the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) seeks to build peace through international cooperation in education, the sciences, and culture, and is preserving 1,073 World Heritage sites in 167 countries;

Whereas today, with global population displacement at the highest level recorded since World War II, the World Food Program, together with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Children's Fund, and other United Nations agencies, is feeding, clothing, and sheltering millions from Syria, Iraq, the Central African Republic, and numerous other countries;

Whereas the ongoing COVID-19 crisis highlights the need for strong and collective multilateral action;

Whereas, since the beginning of the global COVID-19 pandemic, the entire United Nations system has been hard at work: The World Health Organization (WHO) is on the

ground in over 140 countries helping countries scale-up testing and access essential personal protective equipment, while also coordinating research and innovation efforts to advance drugs, vaccines, and diagnostics; the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) is scaling up assistance to refugee camps; UNICEF is supporting the millions of children who are out of school; the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) is strengthening health systems to ensure reproductive and maternal health care; the World Food Programme (WFP) has established air hubs to distribute vital food and medical supplies across Africa; and United Nations peacekeeping missions are using troop patrols to educate on mitigation measures.

Whereas, in Yemen, which has been on the brink of famine for several years and where 80 percent of the population relies on humanitarian aid to survive, United Nations agencies are working to reach 12,000,000 people each month with food and nutritional assistance, respond to a cholera epidemic that has sickened nearly 1,000,000 people since January 2018, rehabilitate irrigation systems and provide agricultural inputs to increase domestic food production, and provide reproductive health care and safe delivery services to women;

Whereas the United Nations Special Envoy for Yemen, Martin Griffiths, is working to broker a diplomatic solution to the conflict and organized the first direct talks between the Government of Yemen and Houthis in December 2018, resulting in an agreement for a cease-fire and military redeployment from the port of Hodeidah;

Whereas the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights plays a leading role in helping to elevate and advance human rights throughout the world;

Whereas, in recent years, the Office of the High Commissioner has aided efforts to uncover and report on abuses in Syria, Iran, North Korea, Venezuela, Sri Lanka, Yemen, Myanmar, Iraq, Belarus, and a host of other countries;

Whereas these types of activities help raise public awareness of human rights violations, magnify the voices of dissidents and civil society organizations on the ground, and provide a tool for pressuring repressive governments and holding abusers accountable;

Whereas United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has implemented key reforms, and continues to be committed to instituting necessary reforms to improve the effectiveness of the United Nations and strengthen oversight;

Whereas 2020 marks the start of the decade of action and delivery for the Sustainable Development Goals, major conferences on climate change, biodiversity, nuclear non-proliferation, and health, the 25th anniversary of the landmark Beijing World Conference on Women, the 20th anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, and the 10th anniversary of United Nations Women, among others;

Whereas the United Nations remains an indispensable partner for the United States as Congress works to protect United States national security and foreign policy interests around the world;

Whereas the United Nations conducts business with numerous United States corporations and organizations and annually awards United States businesses with over \$1,000,000,000 in contracts;

Whereas these contracts were executed in 30 States and more than 100 cities and communities, benefitting hundreds of Americans who work to provide the United Nations a range of critical goods and services, including telecommunications, construction, food production, and military supplies; and

Whereas the participation and leadership by the United States in the United Nations is essential to securing United States interests in international peace and security: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations;

(2) recognizes the United Nations for the critical role it plays in maintaining international peace and security;

(3) applauds the United Nations for its leadership and ongoing efforts in addressing global health crises, including the global fight against HIV/AIDS;

(4) applauds the United Nations for its response to unprecedented humanitarian crises that have resulted in staggering escalation of displacements and suffering in countries such as Yemen, Syria, Iraq, South Sudan, Somalia, the Central African Republic, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

(5) commends the United Nations for its commitment to eradicating extreme poverty and hunger; and

(6) urges the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 797—HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR PAUL SPYROS SARBANES AND EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF PAUL SPYROS SARBANES ON HIS PASSING

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. JONES, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 797

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes was born on February 3, 1933, in Salisbury, Maryland, to Matina and Spyros P. Sarbanes, who had emigrated from Laconia, Greece;

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes graduated from Wicomico High School and earned a full scholarship and a bachelor's degree from the School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University in 1954;

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes earned a Rhodes Scholarship and graduated from Balliol College of the University of Oxford with a First Class degree in 1957, and then graduated from Harvard Law School in 1960;

Whereas, in 1960, Paul Spyros Sarbanes married his wife, Christine Dunbar, who was his partner in all his endeavors, in addition to being a wonderful teacher of the classics, Latin, Greek, and French, an avid reader, and a volunteer with the Enoch Pratt Free Library, the Walters Art Museum, and the Baltimore Volunteer Groups to the United States Fund for UNICEF;

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes and his late wife Christine have—

(1) 3 children, John, Michael, and Janet; and

(2) 7 grandchildren;

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes drew inspiration and passion for public service from the ancient Greeks, who said, "those who lived only in private life were falling short";

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes was a member of the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation in Baltimore, Maryland, and held the highest lay office of the Church, "Order of St. Andrew, Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate";

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates in 1966;

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1970, and in 1974, he introduced the first articles of impeachment against President Richard Nixon for obstruction of justice;

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes was elected to the United States Senate in 1976, and served on the Committees on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, Foreign Relations, and Budget of the Senate, and the Joint Economic Committee;

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes's long-time partner in the Senate, Senator Barbara Mikulski of Maryland, jokingly referred to them as "diner Democrats" in recognition of his parents, who owned a restaurant, and hers, who owned a grocery store, and their dedication to the everyday concerns of Marylanders and the people of the United States;

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes developed a reputation for honesty, intellect, and integrity, working cooperatively with his colleagues and preferring results over credit;

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes had a deep understanding of economic issues, honed as an aide to Walter Heller on President John F. Kennedy's Council of Economic Advisors, and was a leader on critical financial issues including the Community Reinvestment Act, affordable housing, and anti-money laundering efforts;

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes served as Chairman of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and wrote the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, which passed the Senate unanimously, to reform and strengthen oversight of corporate governance and the accounting industry in the wake of the Enron scandal;

Whereas President George W. Bush said the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 included "the most far-reaching reforms of American business practices since the time of Franklin Delano Roosevelt" and President Barack Obama called it "a towering achievement

that will strengthen the American economy for many years to come”;

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes was a champion of the Chesapeake Bay, working to improve access through the Chesapeake Gateways and Watertrails Program and the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail and to improve the health of the Bay with the Chesapeake Restoration Act, oyster restoration, and the Poplar Island project;

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes had a reputation as a man of deep principle, which led to his inclusion in the impeachment proceedings against President Richard Nixon and the investigations into Iran Contra and Whitewater;

Whereas journalist and author Elizabeth Drew, writing about Watergate, wrote of Paul Spyros Sarbanes, “History and process lift people, and they have lifted this group—and given the public a chance to see it. Paul Sarbanes would not have looked at all bad at the Constitutional Convention; he might have been one of the great ones”;

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes was committed to the United States’ leadership in the world, sought peaceful engagement with our allies, played a key role in the ratification of the Panama Canal treaties and anti-apartheid laws, and voted against the authorization of use of military force in Iraq in 2003;

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes received numerous awards for his time in service, including the Paul H. Douglas Ethics in Government Award, the Rolfe Award for Extraordinary Impact on Policy in Economics, Business, and Finance, and the Cox, Coleman, Richardson Award for Distinguished Public Service;

Whereas, in his farewell speech to the Senate, Paul Spyros Sarbanes said, “Throughout my years in public service, I have worked to the limits of my ability to provide the people of Maryland and the Nation dedicated, informed, and independent representation based on the fundamental principles of integrity and intelligence. I have been guided in this effort by a vision of a decent and just America, based on a strong sense of community and offering fairness and opportunity to all its people”;

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes continued in his farewell speech that “Service in this body has reinforced, many times over, my understanding and commitment to the institutions upon which our system of democratic governance critically depends” and “So long as the vision of America’s promise continues to shine brightly in this body, I have every confidence that our Nation will prevail in the face of great challenges and that its future will be assured”;

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes was the longest-serving Senator from the State of Maryland when he retired in 2006;

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes served as a mentor and friend to his colleagues and the dedicated staff in his offices on Capitol Hill and in the State of Maryland;

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes will be remembered for—

(1) his intellect, understanding of issues, and incisive questioning of witnesses before his committees;

(2) the trust he built and wisdom and counsel he shared with his colleagues; and

(3) his unwavering commitment to the people of the United States, and especially the people he served in Maryland; and

Whereas Paul Spyros Sarbanes was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and son who passed away on December 6, 2020, at the age of 87: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That—

(1) the Senate—

(A) has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Paul Spyros Sarbanes, former member of the United States Senate;

(B) recognizes the life and achievements of the Honorable Paul Spyros Sarbanes;

(C) expresses condolences to the family of the Honorable Paul Spyros Sarbanes on his passing; and

(D) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate—

(i) communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives; and

(ii) transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of the Honorable Paul Spyros Sarbanes; and

(2) when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable Paul Spyros Sarbanes.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 51—CORRECTING THE ENROLLMENT OF S. 1869

Mr. PETERS submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 51

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring)*, That in the enrollment of S. 1869, an Act to require the disclosure of ownership of high-security space leased to accommodate a Federal agency, and for other purposes, the Secretary of the Senate shall, in section 4(c)(3) of the Act, strike “thereafter for years” and insert “thereafter for 9 years”.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2694. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. ALEXANDER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5663, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to give authority to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, to destroy counterfeit devices.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2694. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. ALEXANDER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5663, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to give authority to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, to destroy counterfeit devices; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Safe-guarding Therapeutics Act”.

##### SEC. 2. AUTHORITY TO DESTROY COUNTERFEIT DEVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 801(a) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 381(a)) is amended—

(1) in the fourth sentence, by inserting “or counterfeit device” after “counterfeit drug”; and

(2) by striking “The Secretary of the Treasury shall cause the destruction of” and all that follows through “liable for costs pursuant to subsection (c).” and inserting the following: “The Secretary of the Treasury shall cause the destruction of any such article refused admission unless such article is exported, under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, within 90 days

of the date of notice of such refusal or within such additional time as may be permitted pursuant to such regulations, except that the Secretary of Health and Human Services may destroy, without the opportunity for export, any drug or device refused admission under this section, if such drug or device is valued at an amount that is \$2,500 or less (or such higher amount as the Secretary of the Treasury may set by regulation pursuant to section 498(a)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1498(a)(1))) and was not brought into compliance as described under subsection (b). The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall issue regulations providing for notice and an opportunity to appear before the Secretary of Health and Human Services and introduce testimony, as described in the first sentence of this subsection, on destruction of a drug or device under the seventh sentence of this subsection. The regulations shall provide that prior to destruction, appropriate due process is available to the owner or consignee seeking to challenge the decision to destroy the drug or device. Where the Secretary of Health and Human Services provides notice and an opportunity to appear and introduce testimony on the destruction of a drug or device, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall store and, as applicable, dispose of the drug or device after the issuance of the notice, except that the owner and consignee shall remain liable for costs pursuant to subsection (c).”.

(b) DEFINITION.—Section 201(h) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321(h)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (1), (2), and (3) as clauses (A), (B), and (C), respectively; and

(2) after making such redesignations—

(A) by striking “(h) The term” and inserting “(h)(1) The term”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) The term ‘counterfeit device’ means a device which, or the container, packaging, or labeling of which, without authorization, bears a trademark, trade name, or other identifying mark or imprint, or any likeness thereof, or is manufactured using a design, of a device manufacturer, processor, packer, or distributor other than the person or persons who in fact manufactured, processed, packed, or distributed such device and which thereby falsely purports or is represented to be the product of, or to have been packed or distributed by, such other device manufacturer, processor, packer, or distributor.”.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have 2 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

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

##### COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 8, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION, OPERATIONS, SAFETY, AND SECURITY

The Subcommittee on Aviation, Operations, Safety, and Security of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and



Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 8, 2020, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following members of my staff—Ned Adriance, Lauren Arias, Clinton Cowan, Renee Gasper, Cara Gilbert, Annie Orloff, Leo Sheehan, and Lisa Van Theemsche—be given floor privileges for the remainder of the 116th Congress.

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

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Doug Galuszka, military fellow in Senator BRAUN's office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the Congress.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

#### SECURE FEDERAL LEASES FROM ESPIONAGE AND SUSPICIOUS ENTANGLEMENTS ACT

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate the message to accompany S. 1869.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

*Resolved*, That the bill from the Senate (S. 1869) entitled "An Act to require the disclosure of ownership of high-security space leased to accommodate a Federal agency, and for other purposes.", do pass with an amendment.

#### MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment and I ask unanimous consent that the motion be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

#### CORRECTING THE ENROLLMENT OF S. 1869

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 51, which was 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. Con. Res. 51) correcting the enrollment of S. 1869.

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

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask further that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 51) was agreed to.

(The concurrent resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY GRANT RELIEF ACT OF 2020

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 587, S. 3729.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3729) to provide relief for the recipients of financial assistance awards from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which was reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 3729) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 3729

*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 "Motor Carrier Safety Grant Relief Act of 2020".

#### SEC. 2. RELIEF FOR RECIPIENTS OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AWARDS FROM THE FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION.

(a) DEFINITION OF SECRETARY.—In this section, the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Transportation.

(b) RELIEF FOR RECIPIENTS OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AWARDED FOR FISCAL YEARS 2019 AND 2020.—

(1) PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any provision of chapter 311 of title 49, United States Code (including any applicable period of availability under section 31104(f) of that title), and any regulations promulgated under that chapter and subject to subparagraph (B), the period of availability during which a recipient may expend amounts made available to the recipient under a grant or cooperative agreement described in clauses (i) through (v) shall be—

(i) for a grant made under section 31102 of that title (other than subsection (1) of that section)—

(I) the fiscal year in which the Secretary approves the financial assistance agreement with respect to the grant; and

(II) the following 2 fiscal years;

(ii) for a grant made or a cooperative agreement entered into under section 31102(1)(2) of that title—

(I) the fiscal year in which the Secretary approves the financial assistance agreement with respect to the grant or cooperative agreement; and

(II) the following 3 fiscal years;

(iii) for a grant made under section 31102(1)(3) of that title—

(I) the fiscal year in which the Secretary approves the financial assistance agreement with respect to the grant; and

(II) the following 5 fiscal years;

(iv) for a grant made under section 31103 of that title—

(I) the fiscal year in which the Secretary approves the financial assistance agreement with respect to the grant; and

(II) the following 2 fiscal years; and

(v) for a grant made or a cooperative agreement entered into under section 31313 of that title—

(I) the year in which the Secretary approves the financial assistance agreement with respect to the grant or cooperative agreement; and

(II) the following 5 fiscal years.

(B) APPLICABILITY.—

(i) AMOUNTS AWARDED FOR FISCAL YEARS 2019 AND 2020.—The periods of availability described in subparagraph (A) shall apply only—

(I) to amounts awarded for fiscal year 2019 or 2020 under a grant or cooperative agreement described in clauses (i) through (v) of that subparagraph; and

(II) for the purpose of expanding the period of availability during which the recipient may expend the amounts described in subclause (I).

(ii) AMOUNTS AWARDED FOR OTHER YEARS.—The periods of availability described in subparagraph (A) shall not apply to any amounts awarded under a grant or cooperative agreement described in clauses (i) through (v) of that subparagraph for any fiscal year other than fiscal year 2019 or 2020, and those amounts shall be subject to the period of availability otherwise applicable to those amounts under Federal law.

(2) REALLOCATION OF RELEASED FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any amounts released back to the Secretary under section 31104(i) of title 49, United States Code, that were made available to the Secretary under section 31104(a) of that title for fiscal year 2019 or 2020 shall not be subject to any limitation on obligations under Federal law.

#### TELEWORK FOR U.S. INNOVATION ACT

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 569, S. 4138.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4138) to amend title 5, United States Code, to make permanent the authority of the United States Patent and Trademark Office to conduct a telework travel expenses program.

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

Mr. PORTMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 4138) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 4138

*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 “Telework for U.S. Innovation Act”.

**SEC. 2. TELEWORK TRAVEL EXPENSES PROGRAM OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5711 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “test”;

(2) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “committee” and inserting “committees”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “Government”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “test”; and

(ii) by striking “section , including the provision of reports in accordance with subsection (d)(1)” and inserting “subsection”;

(C) in paragraph (4)(B), in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting “and maintain” after “develop”; and

(D) in paragraph (5)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “test”; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(B) The Director of the Patent and Trademark Office shall prepare and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an annual report on the operation of the program under this subsection, which shall include—

“(i) the costs and benefits of the program; and

“(ii) an analysis of the effectiveness of the program, as determined under criteria developed by the Director.”; and

(3) in subsection (g), by striking “this section” and inserting “subsection (b)”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The table of sections for subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 5711 and inserting the following:

“5711. Authority for telework travel expenses programs.”.

**STATE VETERANS HOMES DOMICILIARY CARE FLEXIBILITY ACT**

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 4460 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4460) to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to waive certain eligibility requirements for a veteran to receive per diem payments for domiciliary care at a State home, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PORTMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 4460) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 4460

*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 “State Veterans Homes Domiciliary Care Flexibility Act”.

**SEC. 2. WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR RECEIPT OF PER DIEM PAYMENTS FOR DOMICILIARY CARE AT STATE HOMES AND MODIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR SUCH PAYMENTS.**

(a) WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding section 1741 of title 38, United States Code (as amended by subsection (b)), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall modify section 51.51(b) of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), to provide the Secretary the authority to waive the requirements under such section 51.51(b) for a veteran to be eligible for per diem payments for domiciliary care at a State home if—

(1) the veteran has met not fewer than four of the requirements set forth in such section; or

(2) such waiver would be in the best interest of the veteran.

(b) MODIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—Section 1741(a)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended, in the flush text following subparagraph (B), by striking “in a Department facility” and inserting “under the laws administered by the Secretary”.

(c) STATE HOME DEFINED.—In this section, the term “State home” has the meaning given that term in section 101(19) of title 38, United States Code.

**SAFEGUARDING THERAPEUTICS ACT**

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5663 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5663) to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to give authority to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, to destroy counterfeit devices.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PORTMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the Alexander amendment at the desk be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 2694) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Safeguarding Therapeutics Act”.

**SEC. 2. AUTHORITY TO DESTROY COUNTERFEIT DEVICES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 801(a) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 381(a)) is amended—

(1) in the fourth sentence, by inserting “or counterfeit device” after “counterfeit drug”; and

(2) by striking “The Secretary of the Treasury shall cause the destruction of” and all that follows through “liable for costs pursuant to subsection (c).” and inserting the following: “The Secretary of the Treasury shall cause the destruction of any such article refused admission unless such article is exported, under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, within 90 days of the date of notice of such refusal or within such additional time as may be permitted pursuant to such regulations, except that the Secretary of Health and Human Services may destroy, without the opportunity for export, any drug or device refused admission under this section, if such drug or device is valued at an amount that is \$2,500 or less (or such higher amount as the Secretary of the Treasury may set by regulation pursuant to section 498(a)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1498(a)(1))) and was not brought into compliance as described under subsection (b). The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall issue regulations providing for notice and an opportunity to appear before the Secretary of Health and Human Services and introduce testimony, as described in the first sentence of this subsection, on destruction of a drug or device under the seventh sentence of this subsection. The regulations shall provide that prior to destruction, appropriate due process is available to the owner or consignee seeking to challenge the decision to destroy the drug or device. Where the Secretary of Health and Human Services provides notice and an opportunity to appear and introduce testimony on the destruction of a drug or device, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall store and, as applicable, dispose of the drug or device after the issuance of the notice, except that the owner and consignee shall remain liable for costs pursuant to subsection (c).”.

(b) DEFINITION.—Section 201(h) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321(h)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (1), (2), and (3) as clauses (A), (B), and (C), respectively; and

(2) after making such redesignations—

(A) by striking “(h) The term” and inserting “(h)(1) The term”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) The term ‘counterfeit device’ means a device which, or the container, packaging, or labeling of which, without authorization, bears a trademark, trade name, or other identifying mark or imprint, or any likeness thereof, or is manufactured using a design, of a device manufacturer, processor, packer, or distributor other than the person or persons who in fact manufactured, processed, packed, or distributed such device and which thereby falsely purports or is represented to be the product of, or to have been packed or distributed by, such other device manufacturer, processor, packer, or distributor.”.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 5663), as amended, was passed.

**PROVIDING ADEQUATE RESOURCES TO ENHANCE NEEDED TIME WITH SONS AND DAUGHTERS ACT OF 2020**

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of S. 3325 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3325) to amend part D of title IV of the Social Security Act to allow States to use incentive payments available under the child support enforcement program to improve parent-child relationships, increase child support collections, and improve outcomes for children by supporting parenting time agreements for noncustodial parents in uncontested agreements, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PORTMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. PORTMAN. I know of no further debate on this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 3325) was passed, as follows:

S. 3325

*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 "Providing Adequate Resources to Enhance Needed Time with Sons and Daughters Act of 2020" or the "PARENTS Act of 2020".

**SEC. 2. EXPANDING PERMITTED USES OF INCENTIVE PAYMENTS.**

Section 458 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 658a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "or" and inserting a semicolon;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

"(2) to develop, implement, and evaluate procedures for establishing a parenting time agreement when establishing an initial or modified child support order or a medical support order (including procedures for carrying out a parenting time agreement made prior to the establishment or modification of any such order); or"; and

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

"(g) DEFINITIONS OF PARENTING TIME AGREEMENT AND NONCUSTODIAL PARENT.—

"(1) PARENTING TIME AGREEMENT.—For purposes of subsection (f)(2), the term 'parenting time agreement' means an agreement governing how much time a child spends with the child's custodial parent and the child's noncustodial parent that is mutually agreed to by the parents and is not contested by either parent in any forum.

"(2) NONCUSTODIAL PARENT.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the term 'noncustodial parent' means the parent of a child that the child does not live with for the majority of the child's time."

Mr. PORTMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

**UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—TRIBUTE TO RETIRING MEMBERS OF THE 116TH CONGRESS**

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be printed as a Senate document a compilation of materials from the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in tribute to retiring Members of the 116th Congress and that Members have until Friday, December 18, to submit such tributes.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

**ORDER OF PROCEDURE**

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture motions with respect to Executive Calendar Nos. 912, 913, and 914 be withdrawn. I further ask that at 11 a.m. tomorrow morning, the Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order on which cloture was filed; further, that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; further, that following disposition of the Cooksey nomination, the Senate resume legislative session and it be in order for Senator MENENDEZ or his designee to make motions to discharge S.J. Res. 77 and S.J. Res. 78; and if either motion is made, that there be 4 hours of debate concurrently on the

motions, equally divided between the proponents and opponents of the joint resolutions, with Senator MENENDEZ controlling 15 minutes of the proponents' time immediately prior to the first vote; finally, that upon the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate vote on the motions to discharge S.J. Res. 77 and S.J. Res. 78 in the order listed.

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

**ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY,  
DECEMBER 9, 2020**

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Wednesday, December 9; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Dickerson nomination.

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

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.  
TOMORROW**

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the provisions of S. Res. 797 as further mark of respect for the late Paul Spyros Sarbanes, former Senator for the State of Maryland.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:46 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, December 9, 2020, at 10 a.m.

**NOMINATIONS**

Executive nomination received by the Senate:

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
FINANCE CORPORATION

IRVING BAILEY, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS. (NEW POSITION)

**CONFIRMATIONS**

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 8, 2020:

**THE JUDICIARY**

STEPHEN SIDNEY SCHWARTZ, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

NATHAN A. SIMINGTON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS FROM JULY 1, 2019.