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# Senate

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

#### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, our hearts are steadfast toward You. Lead us safely to the refuge of Your choosing, for You desire to give us a future and a hope. Provide us with grateful hearts to appreciate Your mercies that are new each day.

Today, give our Senators the power to do Your will, as they realize more fully that they are servants of Heaven and stewards of Your mysteries. Lord, give them Your perspective on their daily tasks and every decision they must make. May faithfulness to You become the focus of their living, keeping them from becoming careless about their spiritual and moral growth.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Young). The majority leader is recognized.

## MONTENEGRO'S ACCESSION INTO

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, at the end of the Cold War, many wondered whether NATO could or should survive absent the glaring threat from the Soviet Union, which tied together a diverse coalition of Western countries. That Soviet threat held the alliance together through myriad issues and challenges of burden sharing, nuclear doctrine, and how to balance the roles of the European Union and a security alli-

The United States, as a global superpower, was at times criticized for not paving enough attention to the alliance and at other times for its heavyhanded leadership.

When the Berlin Wall came down, NATO was forced to evolve. At its core, the alliance is not only about defeating a common threat but also about common values.

When our Nation was attacked on September 11, NATO acted on September 12 and invoked article 5 of the Washington Treaty for the first time in history, and NATO partners have worked to assist us in the war on terror

With Russia's resurgence and quest for renewed greater power status, NATO has given notice that it will stand up for Western democracies, as well, and has continued to do so.

Let's be clear. President Putin mourns the fall of the Soviet Union. He is intent on using all elements of national power to expand Russia's sphere of influence. He is also threatened by the examples of representative democracies anywhere near Russia's borders, and he is accordingly trying to intimidate other nations from seeking entry into the alliance.

The Partnership for Peace, established in 1994, has given newly independent states a path toward developing capabilities that would bind them closer to the democracies of the West. It has given them something to strive for. Through the use of the Membership Action Plan, NATO is capable of setting forth the various reforms required for membership of those countries that aspire to join the alliance.

This is the path Poland took—and Romania, the Czech Republic, and so many of our friends in Eastern Europe. Today it is the path Montenegro is tak-

A positive vote on the NATO accession treaty that is before us tells those countries that complete NATO member action plans that this undertaking, while difficult, is not futile.

Let us remember that we face a variety of threats in the world-from ISIL to the Syrian civil war to China's military buildup and territorial ambitions-and our European allies face many threats as well.

NATO remains an incredibly valuable alliance. It is an alliance, however, that must be sustained. That is why we ask our partners to meet their commitments to NATO by spending 2 percent of GDP on defense so the alliance can improve its capabilities, and that is why we must meet our own commitments, including voting yes on the accession treaty before the Senate today.

#### NOMINATION OF NEIL GORSUCH

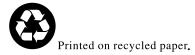
Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on another matter, last week Supreme Court nominee Judge Neil Gorsuch came before the Senate Judiciary Committee for his confirmation hearing. His testimony reaffirmed what we already know about Judge Gorsuch. He is fair and impartial. He has an outstanding legal mind, and he is humble and well respected. He also has a record of building consensus.

Here is what he said about that record at his hearing.

I have decided . . . over 2,700 cases, and my law clerks tell me that 97 percent of them have been unanimous, 99 percent I've been in the majority. They tell me as well that according to the Congressional Research Service, my opinions have attracted the fewest number of dissents from my colleagues of anyone I've served with that they studied over the last 10 years.

So let's repeat that. Judge Gorsuch has ruled in more than 2.700 cases. He has been in the majority 99 percent of the time, and 97 percent have been unanimous decisions.

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



It is no wonder the American Bar Association—an organization that the Democratic leader and the former Democratic Judiciary Committee chairman have called the "gold standard"—gave Judge Gorsuch its highest rating, unanimously "well qualified."

In that ABA rating, it noted: "Based on the writings, interviews, and analyses we scrutinized to reach our rating, we discerned that Judge Gorsuch believes strongly in the judicial branch of government, and we predict that he will be a strong but respectful voice in protecting it."

The ABA isn't alone in its support for Judge Gorsuch. In fact, people from across the political spectrum have sung his praises, including many on the left that you might not expect—people like Professor Laurence Tribe, former President Obama's legal mentor, who called Gorsuch "a brilliant, terrific guy who would do the Court's work with distinction," and Neal Katyal, former President Obama's top Supreme Court lawyer, who called him "one of the most thoughtful and brilliant judges to have served our nation over the last century."

This is the Obama Solicitor General saying that he is "one of the most thoughtful and brilliant judges to have served our nation over the last century."

There are liberal law professors, including Alan Dershowitz, who said Gorsuch would be "hard to oppose on the merits," and Donald Elliot, who called him "a brilliant mind" who "tries very hard to get the law right . . . [and] follows the law as best he can wherever it might lead."

At his confirmation hearing last week, we heard from former and current colleagues on the Federal bench who enthusiastically support his nomination. These are all Federal judges who know him well.

Judge John Kane, who was appointed to the district court in Colorado by President Carter, wrote that Judge Gorsuch has voted both to affirm and reverse his decisions. "In each instance," he remarked, "I have felt I was clearly understood and properly informed." He goes on to say:

I think Judge Gorsuch listens well and decides justly. His dissents are instructive rather than vitriolic. In sum, I think he is an excellent judicial craftsman.

Former colleagues on the Tenth Circuit testified last week on his behalf as well. Two former chief judges of that circuit—one appointed by President Reagan and another appointed by President Clinton—have written that Judge Gorsuch was "like most good judges, assiduously attentive to the facts and law in each case." Judge Deanell Tacha and Judge Robert Henry went on to say that if Judge Gorsuch were confirmed to the Supreme Court, his other important traits are not likely to change either—things like "his fair consideration of opposing views, his remarkable intelligence, his wonderful judicial temperament expressed to litigants and his collegiality toward colleagues."

They conclude by saying:

If we seek to confirm to the Supreme Court a noted intellect, a collegial colleague, and [a] gifted and eloquent writer—as well as a person of exhibited judicial temperament—Gorsuch fits that bill. He represents the best of the judicial tradition in our country.

Perhaps David Frederick, a board member of the left-leaning American Constitution Society, best summed up why the Senate should confirm Judge Gorsuch. In a recent Washington Post op-ed, he praised Judge Gorsuch for his "reverence for our country's values and legal system."

Mr. Frederick states:

The facts developed in a case matter to him; the legal rules established by legislatures and through precedent deserve deep respect; and the importance of treating litigants, counsel, and colleagues with civility is deeply ingrained in him.

Therefore, this self-proclaimed "long-time supporter of Democratic candidates and progressive causes," said that "the Senate should confirm [Gorsuch] because there is no principled reason to vote no."

Let me repeat that. "The Senate should confirm him," he said, "because there is no principled reason to vote no."

Unfortunately, some of our Democratic colleagues are trying desperately to find any excuse to block this nomination. Although this is unfortunate, it is not surprising. Recall that the Democratic leader stated before Judge Gorsuch was even nominated that he would oppose any person on the President's long list of qualified candidates, even if it meant keeping the seat open for years.

Look, we know that our Democratic friends are under an enormous amount of pressure from some on the far left who want them to "resist." It is clear that many radical special interest groups simply refuse to accept the results of the election and would like nothing more than to obstruct the serious work before the Senate.

We saw the impact that had on the Cabinet confirmation process, which represented a historic level of obstruction. We are seeing the same calls for obstruction now.

This much is clear. If our Democratic colleagues choose to hold up this nominee, then, they are acknowledging that they will go to any length—any length-to block any Supreme Court nominee of a Republican President. If Neil Gorsuch can't be confirmed, there is no nominee of any Republican President who our friends on the other side would argue deserves 60 votes. This isn't about the nominee at all. It isn't about his background. It isn't about his temperament. It isn't about his reputation as a judge. It is about those on the far left who want to prevent our country from moving forward.

Judge Gorsuch's suitability for the appellate court was so noncontroversial that not a single Senate Democrat

opposed his nomination—not then-Senator Obama, not then-Senators Biden, Clinton, or Kennedy, not even my good friend the Democratic leader—and there is no reason that Judge Gorsuch shouldn't receive similarly overwhelming bipartisan support now. This is an important moment for our country.

I urge each of our colleagues to rise to the moment and together move forward with the confirmation of our next Supreme Court Justice, Judge Neil Gorsuch, and give him the up-or-down vote that he deserves.

Will the Presiding Officer announce the business of the day.

#### 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

PROTOCOL TO THE NORTH ATLAN-TIC TREATY OF 1949 ON THE AC-CESSION OF MONTENEGRO

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of Executive Calendar No. 1, the Montenegro treaty, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows: Treaty document No. 114-12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 193

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have an amendment that is at the desk that I ask the clerk to report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:
The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McConNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 193.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

At the end add the following:

"This Treaty shall be effective 1 day after ratification."

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient sec-

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 194 TO AMENDMENT NO. 193

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows: The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCon-NELL] proposes an amendment numbered 194 to amendment No. 193.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

Strike "1 day" and insert "2 days".

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

RUSSIA AND TRUMP CAMPAIGN INVESTIGATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon on a few topics. First, on the investigation into the Trump campaign's potential ties to Russia, this is a matter of such gravity, we need to get it right. There should be no doubt about the integrity and impartiality of the investigation, either in the executive branch, where the FBI and Department of Justice are looking into it, or in Congress, where the Intelligence Committees of both Chambers are conducting an investigation.

Unfortunately, the House ligence Committee has come under a cloud of suspicion and partisanship. A few months ago, Chairman Nunes spoke to reporters at the request of the White House to tamp down stories on the links between the Trump campaign and Russia, which is exactly what his committee now must investigate. This past week, Chairman Nunes broke with the committee process and tradition to brief the President on information he had learned but hadn't yet shared with the committee. We have learned this morning that Chairman Nunes was at the White House the day before that event—doing what? We don't know. It could very well be the case that Chairman Nunes was briefing members of the administration about an investigation of which they are the subject.

Chairman Nunes is falling down on the job and seems to be more interested in protecting the President than in seeking the truth. You cannot have the person in charge of an impartial investigation be partial to one side. It is an inherent contradiction, and it undermines decades of bipartisan cooperation on the Intelligence Committee, which handles such sensitive information paramount to national security. It undermines Congress as a coqual branch of government meant to hold the executive branch accountable for its actions, and it corrodes the

American people's confidence in our government.

If Speaker RYAN wants the House to have a credible investigation, he needs to replace Chairman NUNES. Congress was meant by the Framers to be separate and equal, and I sincerely worry that under his direction, Mr. NUNES is pushing the committee into a direction of obsequiousness and not one that is asking the hard questions and getting the important answers.

There has always been a grand tradition of bipartisanship on the Intelligence Committee. When Members go into the SCIF, the room where they get secure briefings, they check their partisanship at the door. Chairman Nunes is right on the edge of doing permanent damage to that grand tradition of bipartisanship. Chairman Nunes seems to be more of a partisan for the President than an impartial actor. He has not been cooperating like someone who is interested in getting to the unvarnished truth. His actions look like those of someone who is interested in protecting the President and his party. and that doesn't work when the goal of the committee is to investigate Russia and its connection to the President and his campaign.

Without further ado, Speaker RYAN should replace Chairman NUNES.

#### TRUMPCARE

Mr. President, on another matter, the failure of TrumpCare this past Friday was a good day for the American people. We can finally put to bed the disaster of a bill that was TrumpCare, which would have resulted in spottier coverage, 24 million fewer Americans with health coverage, and higher costs. premiums, and deductibles for the middle class, the working poor, and older Americans, all to finance close to \$600 billion in tax breaks for wealthy Americans. Americans should breathe a sigh of relief that TrumpCare will not become law. We are happy that it is gone. We can finally move on.

As I have said many times, we Democrats, provided our Republican colleagues drop "replace" and stop undermining the ACA, are willing to work with our Republican friends to improve the existing law. No one ever said the Affordable Care Act was perfect. We have ideas to improve it; hopefully, our colleagues on the Republican side do as well. I hope once "replace" is dropped and the ACA is no longer undermined by the administration, we can sit down and talk about it.

Unfortunately, the administration has already done several things that undermine the law and hurt the people. During the final weeks of open enrollment, the Trump administration discontinued the public advertising campaigns that encouraged people to sign up for insurance. The administration is working behind the scenes to give insurers flexibility to offer Americans less coverage for the healthcare they need, and the Executive order that President Trump issued directing agencies to facilitate the repeal and re-

placement of the ACA has destabilized the marketplace. Now that TrumpCare is off the table, the President should rescind the Executive order.

Today, I am urging the President and his entire administration to immediately cease all efforts to undermine the ACA. People's lives are at stake.

The President should not hope that the healthcare system for tens of millions explodes. He should not want premiums to go up on his watch. He should not hope that Americans lose treatment for opioid addiction on his watch. This approach is wrong, and wrong in two ways: First and foremost, it is wrong because it hurts people. The President must be a leader. It is not leadership for the President to hurt people and actively work to undermine our Nation's healthcare system simply because he is angry that he didn't get his way on repealing the ACA. That is not Presidential, that is petulance.

Secondly, this approach will not work politically. Donald Trump is no longer an outsider; he is President. The American people are looking to him to help solve their problems. If he doesn't, it is going to hurt him and his party. Pointing the finger of blame isn't going to solve anyone's problems. That strategy is not only bad for the American people and beneath the Presidency, it will backfire politically. He is in charge. People want him to make their lives better, not make them worse because of some political anger or vendetta.

I know many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle do care deeply about fixing the Nation's healthcare problems, and we are ready to do that with them in a bipartisan way. But, of course, repeal must be taken off the table, and the President must stop hurting citizens by undermining the Affordable Care Act.

#### TAX REFORM

Mr. President, finally, on tax issues, now that the jig is finally up on healthcare, our Republican friends have signaled they will turn to taxes. I hope they have learned the lessons of TrumpCare. One of the reasons TrumpCare failed so spectacularly was that Republicans tried to rush and ram it through via a reconciliation process, even though it was deeply unpopular with the public. The last poll showed only 17 percent of Americans supported TrumpCare, so that means a large number even of Trump supporters were opposed to it.

Why was it so unpopular? Probably because TrumpCare would have given the wealthiest among us a monster tax cut while hammering older Americans and the middle class with higher costs for less care.

So I say to my friends on the other side of the aisle: If you try to pass a Republican tax plan using the same reconciliation method in order to get a huge tax break for the wealthy and already profitable and powerful corporations, it will fail. The American people are not crying out for tax breaks on

the wealthiest Americans. God bless the wealthy. They are doing just fine without the tax breaks, but thus far it seems our Republican colleagues are headed in that direction.

Even though the President campaigned as a populist, his administration has been all hard-right, pro-corporate, pro-special interests, totally against the working people. If the President and Republicans in Congress continue in that direction, proposing policies that shift burdens off the wealthy and powerful, not aiming to help the middle class and working families, their efforts will continue to fail, and it will turn tax reform into a partisan issue. The White House says tax reform isn't partisan, but it surely will be if they propose massive tax cuts only for the wealthy. My prediction: If Republicans go down that road, the Republican tax scheme will meet the same fate as TrumpCare. I hope they will not go down that road; I hope they will not.

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

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

#### BORDER ADJUSTMENT TAX

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, last week TrumpCare died, and lots of people are trying to figure out exactly what happened. In my view, it was not a lack of strategy; it was not a lack of effort; it was not a lack of personal relationship between the Speaker and the President. It died because the policy stank. It died because people actually—left, right, and center—decided that cutting Medicaid by \$900 billion in order to provide a tax cut for the wealthiest Americans of the exact same amount was just not a good idea in policy or in politics.

Now that TrumpCare has crashed and burned, Republicans are essentially going to try to do the same thing—tax cuts for the rich. Yet, this time, instead of funding it by cutting Medicaid, they are going to charge people more for groceries. Here is their proposal: They want to cut taxes for corporations again. That is what they want to do. Whether one is talking about infrastructure or whether one is talking about healthcare or whether one is talking about so-called tax reform, their solution to everything is to cut taxes for corporations. They want to cut taxes for corporations again, but this time American families will pay for it through taxes on groceries and the other stuff they have to buy on a day-to-day basis.

We have seen this before. It is a giveaway for corporations and the wealthiest among us, but, as usual, they have to find a pay-for, a way to make the arithmetic work, a way to pay for it. They are going to keep proposing socalled solutions for healthcare, infrastructure, or in this case tax reform, but they are basically the same proposal. It is a subsidy for Wall Street. It is because they cannot help themselves

This particular giveaway will cost the average American family thousands of dollars. Families will have to pay more for gas, medicine, clothes, cars, food. That is how a so-called border adjustment tax works. Everything one buys in the United States will be taxed, and everything outside of the United States will not be taxed. The sort of principle behind that is that somehow we are going to stimulate exports and disincentivize imports. It is not just that you are paying more on the stuff that is imported; it is that everything in the United States that you purchase you will have to pay more for in order to incentivize exports. But all you are doing is charging the American people more. This is essentially a sales tax.

I talked to members of my staff, and they were trying to get into the sort of technocratic, legal details about whether it is technically a sales tax or a value-added tax or a border adjustment tax that fits into some other legal category. But for a regular person, it does not matter what you call it; if you pay more and the government is collecting it, it is an increase in taxes.

They are going to dazzle you with complexity, and I think some in the House Republican leadership are very skillful at trying to make this more complicated than it is. They are trying to dazzle you with complexity so you do not know what they are doing. They are raising taxes on groceries and all of the stuff you buy. That is their version of tax reform.

I can understand. The Tax Code is awful, it is a mess, and we have been trying to do tax reform for I think 30 years. It is not unreasonable for the average American to say "Yes, you ought to reform the Tax Code," but, remember, when they talk tax reform, they want you to have to go to the store and buy a steak, a hotdog, a head of lettuce, gasoline, pillows, diapers, paper whatever you need—and it is going to cost more with so-called tax reform. If they succeed, the average American family could pay up to \$1,700 more per year in order that corporations can get their tax cuts. Think about what \$1.700 means for families across the country. For a family of four, with two kids in middle school, \$1,700 pays for a few months' worth of groceries. In Hawaii, \$1,700 will cover rent for a month, and in lots of other places, it will cover rent for 4 or 5 months. For some people, it pays a year's worth of an electric bill. In the State of Hawaii, it will pay for 4 or 5 months of your electric

We know for certain this will hurt consumers, but on a macroeconomic level—in other words, for the entire

country—we have no idea what a border adjustment tax would actually do in terms of our international relationships.

I understand. I voted against the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the trade promotion authority. I have been very, very concerned about the extent to which we have not been getting the better of these trade deals, especially when it comes to people who are in unions across the country. But we do not want to engage in a trade war. We do not want to screw up American manufacturing, American farming, We have no idea what the impact would be. Even if one is willing to accept increasing the cost of goods in the United States for some theoretical possibility that this will incentivize exports, we have no idea what it is going to do to the American economy overall. Even in the best-case scenario, entire industries will fall apart.

Take tourism. In 2016 alone, tourism supported nearly 5.5 million American jobs directly and almost 10 million more in industries like restaurants and retail. The tourism industry pumps \$2.6 billion into our economy every day. That is more than \$30,000 per second.

I will say one other thing about tourism. As we worry about automation, as we worry about artificial intelligence, as we worry about a global economy that is going to eviscerate some of our core industries, tourism is one thing that cannot be taken away from us. If people want to go to Los Angeles, if people want to go to Cleveland, if people want to go to Hawaii, if people want to go to St. Louis, MO, or Kansas City, MO, or Florida, these are jobs that cannot be taken away. So if you want to infuse cash into an economy, create a tourism economy-all of these jobs and all of this revenue will be under threat if this works out the way they want it to work out because the dollar will be so strong that Americans will want to travel abroad and foreigners will want to travel far, far away from us.

Why are we punishing consumers and small businesses? Why are we putting entire industries at risk? House Republicans will tell you it is because they think the corporate tax is too high, but here is the truth: Right now, major corporations have huge teams of tax lawyers who set up fake shell companies so that they get around paying Federal taxes at all, or they abuse loopholes to drastically lower what they owe to the U.S. Government. That is why we see some corporations that end up paying zero dollars in Federal income tax year after year even though they are making a healthy profit in the United States.

Together, Republicans and Democrats should be going after these tax dodgers. Instead of just getting rid of loopholes, they have decided to tax consumers. This makes no sense, and that is why we have to stop it.

Last week, we saved healthcare for 24 million Americans because people

across the country of all political persuasions stood up to fight. This week, the fight goes on. Once again, far too many people are in the crosshairs. I believe strongly that so long as we continue to stand together, we can win this one too. A huge tax cut for the wealthy cannot be funded by increasing the cost of groceries.

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

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

#### NOMINATION OF JUDGE NEIL GORSUCH

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, earlier today in the Senate Judiciary Committee, we considered the nomination of Judge Neil Gorsuch to serve as the next Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court. According to Judiciary Committee practice, that nomination was held over for a week, which means that Judge Gorsuch will be voted out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on April 3, and it will be available for floor action thereafter.

As the Nation—and perhaps even the world—knows, we held lengthy hearings last week to review his qualifications, his experience, and his approach to judging. I have to say that he really impressed everybody who approached this whole issue with an open mind about whether he was qualified to serve on the High Court. But unfortunately, as those of us who work in the Senate know, there has already been a threat by the Democratic leader to filibuster his nomination.

It is really important for the country to recall that there has never been a successful partisan filibuster of a nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court. Sometimes people want to talk about Abe Fortas in 1968, but ultimately Abe Fortas, who was nominated to be Chief Justice of the Supreme Court by his friend and mentor, Lyndon Johnson, asked to withdraw his nomination after one failed cloture vote and ultimately ended up resigning from the Supreme Court of the United States in disgrace. It is hardly a precedent for what Democrats have said they are going to do with regard to this good man and this good judge, Neil Gorsuch.

I understand my friend the Democratic leader has a tough job. He has a split caucus—those who want to take Democrats over the ledge and those who would like to try to find some way to work out a reasonable accommodation. Unfortunately, he is under a lot of pressure from the radical groups on the left to do whatever he can to tank this superb nominee. Again, this would be unprecedented in American history.

It is true that Democrats in 2013 did the so-called nuclear option, which has established a new precedent in the Senate with regard to lower court judges—circuit court judges and district court judges—along with Cabinet nominees. Ironically, the so-called Reid precedent of 2013 has kind of come back to bite them a little bit, as President Trump now has been able to see all of his Cabinet members confirmed with 51 votes, or, in the case of one, 50 plus the Vice President.

I was glad to see a quote from a report in a Vermont publication from our Senator friend  $_{
m the}$ senior from Vermont, the former chairman of the Judiciary Committee, in which he said he wasn't inclined to filibuster the nomination of Judge Gorsuch and that he deserves a minimum of an up-ordown vote. So I hope others will follow the lead of Senator LEAHY, who has been in the Senate a long time in the majority and in the minority. He realizes it is important to maintain a certain level of tradition and decorum here in the Senate, because usually what goes around comes around. Unfortunately, this new precedent of filibustering Supreme Court Justices, if allowed to happen, is going to continue to be very damaging to the Senate and even to the country.

I hope he is still of that same mind—that he is not inclined to filibuster the nomination of Judge Gorsuch. If he takes that position, I know he will influence a lot of colleagues on the other side of the aisle because of his distinguished record of service in the Senate and in the Judiciary Committee.

I look forward to the committee approving Judge Gorsuch's nomination next week and then taking that nomination up on the Senate floor and confirming the nomination of Neil Gorsuch to serve as the next Associate Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

#### ${\tt OBAMACARE}$

Mr. President, last week, a lot of attention was focused on the House of Representatives and their efforts to fix our Nation's healthcare system.

We have said for a long time that ObamaCare needs to be repealed and replaced. I stand by that comment, and I know many of our colleagues do as well. But I want to make something else clear. The failure of ObamaCare isn't a problem for Democrats or Republicans alone. It is a problem for the entire country, and particularly those who find their premiums going up by double digits every their year, deductibles unaffordable, or even choices drying up because insurance companies simply have withdrawn from the individual market. Our colleagues on the Democratic side have repeatedly recognized the problems with ObamaCare, even though they pushed it through on a partisan vote 7 vears ago

The fact of the matter is that the President promised: If you like your healthcare policy, you can keep it; if you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor; and, premiums for a family of four will go down by an average of \$2,500. None of that has proven to be

true. People were misled into believing that ObamaCare would somehow be the gold standard for healthcare in the country, and people are being hurt now by high premiums, high deductibles, and fewer choices. Indeed, 30 million people remain uninsured in this country because of the cost or the fact that they just decide that they don't want buy government-mandated healthcare. They either pay a penalty through the IRS or they simply get a hardship exemption. There are 30 million people currently uninsured, more or less, under ObamaCare.

I want to remind our colleagues on the other side that they understand ObamaCare needs some work, and many of them have made repeated calls to fix it. Last year, for example, the junior Senator from Wisconsin said of ObamaCare:

There were things obviously that need perfecting, need revisiting. Even if it were perfect, over time we would have to make adaptations, and so I think we would absolutely want to strengthen it.

Not even our colleague, the junior Senator from Wisconsin, is saying ObamaCare is delivering 100 percent on the promise. She is saying it needs some work.

The senior Senator from Indiana has echoed this sentiment. He said:

I supported the Affordable Care Act because I wanted to help working- and middleclass families to have access to healthcare. That doesn't mean the law is perfect, and it doesn't mean that we don't still have work to do. That's why I'm working with my colleagues to make this bill stronger.

We haven't seen any proposals from our friends across the aisle on how to fix the law, which they concede is far from perfect. Instead, what we have seen is their standing back, watching Republicans trying to do this by ourselves and coming up short last week in the House of Representatives. To my mind, that is not commendable behavior on their part. I thought we all came here to the U.S. Senate to try to do things and fix problems for the constituents we represent. It is purely partisan to say: We know ObamaCare is falling apart, and it is not delivering as we promised. And, oh yes, you Republicans can try to fix it, but if you don't have the votes to do it, we are just going to sit back and applaud or react with glee from a partisan perspective because our political opponents somehow came up short when it came to the votes in the House.

The truth is, ObamaCare didn't bring massive relief for working- and middle-class Americans. For many, it made life more difficult with skyrocketing premiums, losing their plans and the doctors they wanted, and having fewer options to choose from.

I will quote one of our colleagues on the other side of the isle, the junior Senator from North Dakota. Her website says: "With any major legislation, there are improvements that need to be made so that it works as well as possible, and that holds true for the healthcare reform law," speaking of ObamaCare.

She goes on to say that she is committed to "correcting the parts of the healthcare reform law that do not make sense, improve on others, and implement new ideas to improve on healthcare costs and improve quality."

I am grateful to our colleague from North Dakota for her honesty and open take on where things stand with respect to ObamaCare, but that is just a start. What we need to do now is work together to try to address the failings of ObamaCare where it is not delivering as promised and where even our colleagues across the aisle have said that it needs to be fixed in order to make sure that people have access to affordable, accessible quality healthcare. They don't have that now.

My point is that ObamaCare was a bill sold to the American people under false pretenses by the previous administration, and it has proved to be a disaster for many people. I was reading an article-I think it was either in the Washington Post or the New York Times today—about a woman in Texas who runs a hair care salon and who has intentionally kept her number of employees under the threshold under which ObamaCare's employer mandate would be invoked. So rather than spending time focusing on growing her business and improving her business, she has consciously kept it smaller, with fewer employees, because she knows that the burden of complying with the ObamaCare employer mandate will ultimately make her business less profitable. And when her business is less profitable, it means she can hire fewer people and perhaps can't pay the wages or the benefits she would like to pay her employees.

So I would just say to our colleagues across the aisle that I understand you think you had a pretty good day last week when the Republicans couldn't pass the healthcare plan on their own in the House, but I don't think this is a time for people to enjoy other people's failed efforts to try to improve the status quo. It is a mandate, I believe, for all of us to work together to address the flaws that we know exist—that they admitted exist—to try to do better when it comes to affordable, accessible healthcare for the American people.

This law will fail. Insurance companies will withdraw from the market, and the individual market serving roughly 18 million people will literally dry up and go away. Imagine how those families are going to be impacted.

I wouldn't want to be somebody who said: Well, I had an opportunity to fix it; yes, I had an opportunity to address your concerns when it came to affordable healthcare, but for partisan political reasons, I simply stood down and did nothing and literally washed my hands of it.

So before this law collapses—and it will—I hope our colleagues across the aisle will start offering their ideas and

their solutions to bring better healthcare to families across the country. That is what I think our constituents expect of us. That is in the finest tradition of the U.S. Senate, and our constituents deserve no less.

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

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

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

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I am pleased that in the Senate we are about to take a vote on ratifying the protocol of the accession of Montenegro to NATO.

What I wanted to do was to take a few moments to explain to people why I think this is an important vote and an important moment for our security as a nation but also to protect our interests abroad and that of our allies.

We all know that NATO—the North Atlantic Treaty Organization—was started right after World War II. It was primarily designed in the Cold War to confront the threats posed by the Soviet Union and its allies in the Warsaw Pact. Of course those threats have changed since the end of that Cold War.

Here is what hasn't changed. What hasn't changed is the need for America and her allies in a strong way to remain engaged in the world. That need has not changed. What has not changed is the need for democracies to be able to come together and collectively defend not just their interests but the interests of all people around the world where freedom is threatened. The difficult, painful lesson of history is that dictators and tyrants are never pleased with what they have. They always want more. They always need more. That is why it is so important that those nations on Earth—luckily and in a blessed way, more people than ever before find themselves living in societies where the people get to choose their leaders.

These alliances we have around the world—NATO being chief among them—help advance our strategic and economic interests, but most importantly, they help to keep our country safe.

There is a lot of talk about how much countries are paying into NATO, and it is true that the United States is by far the largest contributor to NATO. I think that is a combination of two things: one, decisions that were made by some of our allies in Europe on how they want to spend their government's money, and the other is just the reality that we are the United States of America, and as the United States of America, we will always find that we are always making a disproportionate share and contribution on everything, from global aid to fight off hunger and disease, to collective security.

While we can urge our allies, encourage our allies, and ask our allies to make a greater contribution to their own defense, we should not fall into the trap of diminishing what they are doing and what they have done.

First of all, in Europe today, many of our NATO allies are increasing their defense spending. They are doing so in response to Russia's aggression in Ukraine and its increased aggression elsewhere in the region. Their soldiers are joining ours in deploying to Central and Eastern Europe to reassure our allies who are facing aggression and potential aggression from Vladimir Putin.

With all this talk about NATO and money and how much everyone is giving. I think it is important to take a moment to also understand that our NATO allies have fought beside us and have died beside Americans in Afghanistan, where more than 1,100 soldiers of the NATO-led coalition paid the ultimate price with their lives. It is important to note this because on September 11. 2001. Paris was not attacked. Berlin was not attacked, and London was not attacked on that horrible day; yet these nations and others, our partners, invoked a shared commitment that led them to stand beside us on the other side of the world in an effort to prevent another attack like September 11 from taking place again on American soil or anywhere in the world.

Montenegro is not even a member of NATO yet. Yet it sent hundreds of servicemembers to join the American-led coalition in Afghanistan.

I have always argued that when our alliances, such as NATO, are under pressure from our potential adversaries and foes, we need to continue to expand and allow countries that meet the standards set by the alliance to join. That has never been more important than it is now, given the uncertainty and security challenges we face in Europe, especially as Vladimir Putin continues his aggression and continues to threaten stability in the region.

To be frank, Putin would love nothing more than to destroy NATO. In fact, you can see him trying to do that on a regular basis. He has tried to divide these countries, turn them against each other. He supports candidates throughout Europe who would take their countries out of NATO, constantly calling into question its viability. Vladimir Putin wants countries like Montenegro to remain in his sphere of influence and what I would call his sphere of threat, as his recent attempts to deploy his asymmetrical tools to influence Montenegrin politics have shown. That is why it is so important that we are moving to ratify Montenegro's access to NATO and to strengthen our relationship with Montenegro through NATO.

As the Senate and as a country, we are sending a clear message to Vladimir Putin that we will not accept the establishment of a Russian sphere of influence over countries that desire to

ally themselves with the free and democratic community of nations.

Today, I have tried to refrain from using the term "Russian" sphere of influence or "Russia" because the fact is, as I said to someone earlier today or yesterday, there is a difference between Russia and Vladimir Putin, and the events of the last 48 hours remind us of that. We are watching as many Russians who also desire to join the community of nations have turned out in cities and in places across Moscow and in other places in the thousands. They have turned out to protest the rampant corruption that fuels the Putin regime. And the Putin regime, as all totalitarian regimes do, has cracked down. They have arrested and detained hundreds of peaceful protesters. I ask you to compare that to Montenegro, whose membership in NATO will help the United States and Montenegro deepen our already strong bilateral relationship.

The stakes here are extraordinarily high for the United States and for our European allies. The Senate needs to send a strong message of solidarity with those in Europe who are standing up to the anti-democratic tactics of Vladimir Putin and his cronies.

That is why today I will be proud to cast my vote in support of Montenegro's accession into NATO, and I hope my colleagues here in the Senate will do the same and join me in doing so as well.

Mr. President, 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.

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

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

#### HEALTHCARE

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, last week Republicans in Congress came within an inch of ripping health insurance away from 24 million people in order to give tax breaks to rich people. That collapsed, and it collapsed because the American people stood up and said no—no to kicking seniors out of nursing homes, no to booting kids with rare diseases off of their treatments, no to gutting funding for opioid addiction.

All across this country—in every corner of this country—for months people spoke up about how the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid are saving their lives and saving their families from financial ruin. They poured their hearts out, they raised their voices, and they demanded to be heard. Last week they won

The collapse of the Republicans' cruel scheme is a huge relief to millions of people in this country, but I am not here to celebrate. I am here to warn the American people about what is coming next, because instead of listening to the American people about

what they want, the President of the United States has threatened to sabotage healthcare in America. It isn't subtle. One hour after the Republicans admitted they didn't have the votes in Congress to destroy the Affordable Care Act, President Trump sat behind his desk in the Oval Office and told the entire Nation that he wants to trigger a meltdown of our healthcare system because he thinks that would be helpful to him politically.

Just so there is no confusion, I want to quote him word for word. He said: "The best thing we can do, politically speaking, is let ObamaCare explode."

Now let's be clear. It is deeply wrong for the President of the United States—whose one and only job is to look out for the American people—to root for the failure of our country's healthcare system. It is deeply wrong for the President of the United States to announce that he is going to drag down our entire healthcare sector—a sector that accounts for more than one-sixth of the entire U.S. economy—just so he can stand on top of the wreckage and waggle his fingers and say: I told you so.

Healthcare for millions of Americans is not a game. It is not entertainment. It is not a reality TV show. Healthcare is literally life and death, and it touches everyone in this country from elderly grandparents to tiny babies.

President Trump is responsible for making healthcare in this country work. It is his job. He is President of the United States. His party controls both Houses of Congress. A legitimate President doesn't clap and cheer when things get worse for the American people. A legitimate President doesn't pound his chest about sabotaging the health and security of the American people because it is politically expedient. A legitimate President does his job.

The President's admission that he wants our healthcare system to collapse is a dangerous sign of where things are headed. For 7 years Republicans in Congress have rooted against healthcare in this country, cheering every stumble and working at every turn to hobble the law and make it harder for people to get affordable insurance. President Trump cannot repeal the Affordable Care Act on his own, but he can strip healthcare from millions of Americans and make it too expensive for millions more. He can do that all on his own. In fact, he is already working on it.

A few days after he took office, President Trump signed an Executive order directing his agency to use every tool at their disposal to try to disrupt the Affordable Care Act. In January, he also pulled down government's efforts to get more people signed up for health insurance. Why? So fewer people would use the health exchanges, fewer would get insurance, and premiums would go up for those who did sign up—all in an effort to make ObamaCare fail.

Senator PATTY MURRAY and I asked the inspector general at the Depart-

ment of Health and Human Services to investigate this reckless move, and now an independent investigation has been launched into this despicable incident. But the President has more tools at his disposal to undercut the Affordable Care Act all by himself. The President can redefine what insurance plans have to cover, stripping out critical benefits like birth control coverage. The President can withhold payments that insurers rely on to keep private health plans affordable. The President can allow States to put new conditions on Medicaid, conditions like taking away healthcare coverage if a woman doesn't get back to work soon enough after giving birth.

If the President decides to launch an all-out effort to sabotage American healthcare so he can manufacture a crisis to score political points, he can hurt a lot of people.

But there is a better way. If Republicans want to work on ideas to actually improve healthcare in America, to expand coverage, to expand access, or to reduce premiums and out-of-pocket costs, I am eager to throw up my sleeves and go to work. For years, Massachusetts has led the Nation in bipartisan health reform. We have lots to contribute on this, and lots of other Democrats are ready to get to work, too.

The American people aren't stupid. They know the difference between a bill that kicks 24 million people off of their health insurance and a bill that actually improves care. They know the difference between a President who fights to make health care better and a President who plans to sabotage healthcare. They know the difference between a fireman and an arsonist. If this President and this Congress continue to play politics with the lives of millions of people, I promise you that the American people will see it, they will know it, and they will rise up once again to fight it.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I take the floor to urge an "aye" vote on invoking cloture on the issue of Montenegro's admittance into NATO. I would point out that 25 of the 28 nations in NATO have already voted in favor of Montenegro's accession into NATO. Only the United States, Spain, and the Netherlands have yet to weigh in.

I would like to point out that Montenegro's admittance into NATO is a critical test of the alliances's opendoor policy. I don't ask my colleagues to take my word for it. I would just like to point out that our Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, General Curtis Scaparrotti, last week declared that Montenegro's accession into NATO is "absolutely critical," that they have had this desire. They have met the map, and they understand NATO'S outreach and ability to bring

in those who want to determine their own means of government and become part of NATO.

If we were to lose this, it would be a setback to many of the other nations and peoples, particularly in Eastern Europe, who were looking forward to and have their eyes on the West and becoming part of NATO.

I would point out to my colleagues that the Russians attach some importance to Montenegro because they tried a coup to overthrow the government. The Russians tried a coup to overthrow the government of this small, beautiful, and strategically important nation.

I would just point out that our Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, wrote a letter urging Montenegro's membership to be ratified, saying that it was "strongly in the interests of the United States." In his letter he strongly emphasized that Montenegro's accession to NATO would support greater integration, democratic reform, trade, and security and stability in the entire Balkans region.

I won't take too much time in the Senate except to say that I think this is more than an accession or non-accession of a small 750,000-person nation. It is a test in this contest that we are now engaged in with Vladimir Putin, who has committed to extending the reach and influence of the Russian Government and Russian influence to the point where he attempted a coup to overthrow the freely elected government of Montenegro. That coup failed, but I can assure my colleagues that if we turn down Montenegro, it will not remain the democracy that it is today.

General Breedlove, who is our former commander in Europe said:

Montenegro is a very strategic place. Can you imagine A2/AD Bubbles in Montenegro?

I urge my colleagues for a resounding "aye" vote in bringing cloture to an end and bringing Montenegro into the community of NATO, which is needed more now than at any time since the end of the Cold War. I, also, by the way, recommend to my colleagues a visit to, really, one of the more beautiful countries on Earth.

I yield for the Senator from South Carolina.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina is recognized.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, for one, I want to let the people of Montenegro know that this day has been a long time coming. We would not be here had it not been for Senator McCain's constant, persuasive, passionate voice, and this day has finally arrived in the Senate.

As to Senator McConnell, I want to thank him for making floor time. I regret we had to do it this way, but when one Senator objects, then, it puts the pressure on the rest of us. One Senator can stop legislation like this. It was one Senator, and he has every right to do so. But I want to thank Senator McConnell for putting aside floor time so that we can vote in the Senate to

allow Montenegro to be a part of NATO.

Senator McCain has traveled the world as much as anybody I know. I have been to Montenegro with him at least once, if not twice. It is a beautiful place. They share our values. They want to move forward in terms of their democracy. They want to be part of NATO. They want to be part of free markets. They want the rule of law to replace the rule of the gun. Montenegro is trying to do everything that Putin hates—where you can actually vote for your own leaders, where you can have a judicial system that works, where people can walk the streets without fear, and where the leadership doesn't steal the country blind.

I want to let the people of Russia know—for those who went into the streets yesterday or the day before to protest the corruption of the Putin regime—that you have my undying respect and admiration, because I can only imagine how hard that was.

For the people of Montenegro, I know they have been waiting a long time for this day to come because Russia and, generally, Putin have been trying to overthrow their government.

To those people in this body who proclaim they are for freedom and liberty, here is what I suggest. If you are not for other people's freedom and other people's liberty, you will eventually lose yours. The idea that we can be safe and free and not engage the world and sit on the sidelines and watch people like Putin turn the world order upside down and not be affected is at best naive. It is worse than naive, but I want to be nice and say it is just naive. What Putin is doing throughout the

What Putin is doing throughout the world is trying to break the backs of the world order, NATO, and the European Union. He is trying to drive a wedge between the NATO countries, and he will be the biggest beneficiary of that. He is trying to break the back of the European Union. Alliances of democracy are his worst nightmare. This is a huge step in the right direction.

I want to thank Senator McCAIN for being the most consistent voice in this body, and Senators McConnell and SCHUMER for allowing this vote. But our work is not done because it is one thing to vote in favor of Montenegro's entering NATO over Russia's objections. That is not enough. Senator McCain and myself, Senators Cardin and Rubio-Democrats and Republicans—all have crafted legislation to punish Russia for interfering in our elections. And they did. They are trving to break the backs of democracy in Ukraine, Georgia, and the Baltic nations. I hope the next thing we do in this body, in short order, on Russia is to punish them for their efforts to interfere and change and destabilize American democracy. I don't think they changed the outcome, but it was the Russians who did this to the Democratic Party, and I think every Republican should be equally offended.

I hope we can find some time on the floor, starting in the committee, to pass a Russia sanctions bill that, I believe, would get 80 votes. This is a great step in the right direction for people in Montenegro. It is a rebuke of Putin, but it is not enough.

Again, I thank Senator McCain for his leadership toward the people in Montenegro, and I know he has been worried about what is happening in America. I hope he finds some comfort in what we are doing here today.

I hope the rest of the world, particularly Europe, which is in the crosshairs of Putin, will understand that America is coming back and it is coming back strongly.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from South Carolina, particularly on the issue of Russian sanctions.

Yesterday, we saw the people of Russia, particularly the younger people, demonstrating peacefully in the streets of the cities and towns throughout Russia in order to protest the corruption and dictatorship of Vladimir Putin. At the time, the leader of the opposition was jailed. He was in the process of putting together a study that showed that Medvedev, who was Putin's puppet, was one of the wealthiest people on Earth.

I was heartened by the willingness and the courage of the people of Russia to stand up and protest a corrupt, dictatorial, and brutal government that, unfortunately, they are saddled with.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, one of my chief responsibilities as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is to help protect the men, women, and institutions that keep America safe, including not only the State Department but the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance.

NATO was founded in 1949 as an alliance that was committed to the collective defense of its members—that an attack on one constitutes an attack on all. The alliance's self-defense clause has only been invoked once, after 9/11, when our allies deployed with us to Afghanistan.

Our militaries, in their working together, allow NATO to function. NATO members have committed to spending 2 percent of their GDPs on their militaries, but only the United Kingdom, Estonia, Poland, Greece, and the United States currently hit that goal. While the other members are working on growing their defense budgets, I have long held the belief that they must do so faster.

Regardless, part of what makes NATO great is its open doors. States that are interested in becoming allies are encouraged to join the Partnership for Peace. When those states then meet the criteria for membership, they are welcomed into the alliance.

This process is exactly what occurred with Montenegro. Just after becoming

an independent country in June of 2006, Montenegro joined the Partnership for Peace in December 2006. Exactly 3 years later, Montenegro obtained its Membership Action Plan. Six years after that, NATO recognized that Montenegro had met all of the necessary standards for membership and invited the country to begin talks to become part of the alliance. Then, in May of 2016, NATO's Foreign Ministers signed the protocol to formally open the way for Montenegro to join. As of today, every other NATO member has already ratified this treaty and Montenegro's inclusion.

Beyond such procedural steps, Montenegro has long been contributing to shared security challenges. For example, Montenegro actively supported the NATO-led operation in Afghanistan from 2010 until its end in 2014 and now is supporting the follow-on mission to train, advise, and assist Afghan security forces. It is important to note that Montenegro has taken these steps despite Russia's best efforts to undermine their progress every step of the way.

I thank Senator BEN CARDIN; the Europe and Regional Security Cooperation Subcommittee chairman, Ron Johnson; and my other colleagues on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for their support and constructive work during this process.

We have moved this treaty ratification twice now—once in the last Congress and again in January—to demonstrate our commitment to NATO and to Montenegro.

I also thank Senator McCAIN, both as a former member of our committee as well as the chair of the Armed Services Committee, for his unwavering support in bringing Montenegro into the alli-

Lastly, on behalf of the committee, I urge all of my colleagues to support this treaty amendment that serves American security interests for a strong NATO.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, President Trump said in his inaugural address that we have defended other nations' borders while refusing to defend our own. I think he was right. Today, the question is, Will we add another commitment to defend yet another foreign country?

For decades, NATO has been an organization in which the United States disproportionately spends our blood and our treasure. The other NATO countries have largely hitched a ride on a U.S. train that subsidizes their defenses and allows them to direct their revenues to their own domestic concerns. In short, Uncle Sam is the Uncle Patsy for the rest of the world.

The question today is, Will adding to NATO another country with fewer than 2,000 soldiers be in our self-interest?

It has fewer than 2,000 soldiers and is a small country in a distant part of the world. Will they make you sleep safer at night? The answer is an emphatic no.

There is no national security interest that an alliance with Montenegro will advance. If we invite Montenegro into NATO, it will be a one-way street, with the United States committing to defending yet another country and with you, the taxpayer, being stuck with the bill.

Even the advocates of Montenegro's joining NATO admit as much. The Senate hearing on admitting Montenegro to NATO was really just a punching session about Russia. Not one word was said about allowing Montenegro into NATO or how it would advance our own national security. We were going to send a message to Russia. Even the citizens of Montenegro are divided on this. About half of them want to be in NATO, and the other half does not want to be in NATO.

But it is not really about them; it is about us. Is admitting Montenegro to NATO good for us? Our national security is our national security. Is Montenegro going to defend the United States? Are they of any importance to our national security or, perhaps, will they entangle us in local, historic, regional conflicts in the area?

We must ask: Is Montenegro an asset to the defense of the United States? That is the question at hand.

The answer is a simple one. Admitting Montenegro to NATO will do nothing to advance our national security, and it will do everything to simply add another small country to NATO's welfare wagon.

Advocates for expanding NATO believe that, unless the whole world joins NATO, Russia will conquer the world, but the truth is more nuanced. During the Cold War, the myth of Russian might was endlessly circulated here at home, and the effect was the production of endless munitions and ever-expanding debt. You are still paying the tab for that. The Cold War ended, and the Soviet Union failed, not because our military might overcame them but because our economic system outlasted them. They were defeated. Capitalism defeated socialism.

If there is one message that Americans should get, it is that capitalism is stronger than socialism. We should not flirt with political leaders in our country who promote what caused the Soviet Union to fail.

Now we are told we must fear Russia again—fear the Russian bear. Yet, if you look closely, you will see that Russian aggression around the world and particularly around the former Soviet satellites is an attempt to mask a weak economy that runs the same risk of overextension that caused the Soviet Empire to collapse. Russia is weak. Russia is weak because of corruption, oligarchy, and human rights abuses. If Russia continues on this path, it may well encounter the same cataclysm that brought down the Soviet Empire.

Without question, Russia is an adversary, a country that ignores inter-

national norms, does not respect the territorial integrity of its neighbors. Yet someone must ask: Is it in our national interest to insist that countries of the former Soviet Union be in NATO?

The debate today is not just about Montenegro. The same cheerleaders for Montenegro's being in NATO want Ukraine in NATO and want Georgia in NATO. This is about NATO's expansion in general, and this is a chance to have a real debate.

If both Ukraine and Georgia were in NATO today, we would be involved in a world war with Russia. Shouldn't someone speak up? Shouldn't we have some sort of national debate before we commit our sons and daughters to war in a faraway land?

One thing is for certain: Russia will always care more about those lands than we will. Does that make Russian aggression right? Absolutely not.

Our decision—the decision at hand—is: Are we willing to send our sons and daughters to fight in border disputes over Montenegro? Most Americans couldn't find Montenegro on the map. Are you willing to send your kids there to fight?

That is what this is about, and this is sluffed over. They are going to forbid amendments. I forced this debate. Nobody wanted to have this debate. They want to rubberstamp it. They want no debates, and they want to send your kids to war with no debate. Today. they will pass this over my objections, but they will allow no amendments. When I finish this speech, I will ask for an amendment, and it will be denied because they do not want to debate whether your sons and daughters go to war. I find that appalling. I am ashamed of a Senate that will not have a debate and will not have a vote.

From the very beginning, our Republic was founded on a deep suspicion of entangling alliances. Our Founders wanted to do everything possible to avoid the endless, chronic wars in Europe. In Europe, for centuries, Kings from one nation fought their brothers and their cousins in other nations. This meaningless fratricide continued even into the 20th century.

The Founding Fathers were emphatic in their desire to avoid endless war. Washington wrote that our true policy was to steer clear of a permanent alliance with any portion of the foreign world. Jefferson echoed this when he famously wrote of peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations and of entangling alliances with none.

Even in modern times, such military heroes as President Eisenhower opposed intervention in Hungary, even when the naked aggression of the Soviets was appalling. Eisenhower likely may have had no real opportunity, though, because the Soviet Union had rolled in with 200,000 troops and 4,000 tanks.

At least part of the decision not to go into Hungary in the fifties was not for a lack of sympathy for freedom, not for a lack of sympathy for self-determination of a country. It was the real politic decision of a nuclear confrontation with a nuclear Russia.

Fast-forward to today. For 16 years, we have been at war in the Middle East—16 years. If I had been here, I would have voted for going after the people who had attacked us on 9/11. Our justified response, though, has drug on and on. There are people who are fighting in the war who were not born on 9/11. The Congress voted after 9/11 to go to war. It voted to go after the people who planned and plotted the attacks on the World Trade Center. That vote from 15 years ago is used to justify all war that is everywhere on the planet.

There has been no meaningful debate on the wars we are currently involved in in the Middle East. We currently fight illegally and unconstitutionally in the Middle East because your representatives are afraid to have a public debate. They will stifle debate at all costs, and they will broker no amendments. They will allow no amendments to occur.

Our unrestricted, unvoted-upon involvement in war everywhere informed my opposition to expand NATO. Everyone likes to talk about NATO's article 5 obligation to come to the defense of any NATO allies that are attacked. That is in the treaty. If Montenegro is attacked, we will have to respond, but my concern is that many in Congress believe that article 5, in saying that we have to defend Montenegro, farms out to an international body this power to declare war, and they do not think they have to vote again.

You don't believe me?

They have not voted for 15 years for war, and we are still at war. We continue to go to new countries for war with no vote. Do you think that Montenegro will not be attacked and that there will not be a war without a vote? This is their history. Their history is one of not obeying the Constitution. David Fromkin puts it this way: "If it is now agreed by treaty that an attack on a . . . NATO ally is deemed an attack on the United States, then it can be argued that the President is empowered without congressional authorization to send us to war."

Don't believe me? We have been at war for 15 years. We have been at war with dozens of new tribes, dozens of new countries, with no votes on war.

The most important vote a legislator will ever take is whether to go to war. Yet today we will vote for an automatic war if somebody invades Montenegro. And mark my words—they won't obey the Constitution. They will say: We voted to put them in NATO. Article 5 says we have to defend them.

That is not the law of the land, and we should have to vote in Congress. But nobody obeys the law. So if you are worried about whether your kids will be sent to the Balkans or whether your kids will be sent to Ukraine or Georgia, call your representative and tell them: Stop.

This is the crux of the debate. Congress has abdicated its role in declaring war. For 16 years, we have been at war in the Middle East with dozens of different tribes and dozens of countries and yet no vote. People say: Well, we should fight ISIS. Well, let's vote on it. Let's declare war or not. But you can't tell me that ISIS has anything to do with 9/11. They don't. Many of their fighters weren't even born then.

The authorization for war in Iraq was specific to a specific enemy in a specific place. So was the authorization after 9/11. The authorization for war in Afghanistan was specific. It says: necessary and appropriate force against those who planned, authorized, committed, or aided the September 11 attacks. It was actually put in the authorization for force that it was about 9/11. None of what is going on is about 9/11 anymore. They are not the same people. Some of the people we are fighting now didn't like those people.

There is a whole confusing set of religious wars that have been going on for 1,000 years in the Middle East. Yet your representatives will say: Send me your son, send me your daughter, but we don't have time to vote on whether it should be a declared war.

This vote is now used to justify a war around the globe, a vote from 9/11—from 15 years ago. It is a lie, and it is a disservice to our young men and women to have them fight under false pretenses where the Senators don't seem to have time to have a debate. No active war anywhere around the globe that the United States is involved with has been authorized by Congress.

We dropped more bombs the other day in Pakistan. We sent a man right into Yemen. Raise your hand if you know what the hell is going on in Yemen and who is fighting whom and who is our enemy. The one we killed the other day was al-Qaida—probably a bad guy. He was actually fighting against the Houthis, whom we are also fighting against.

Who are the good guys? Shouldn't we have a debate? Shouldn't we decide whether we are going to war in Yemen? Should we be giving the Saudis bombs? They bombed a funeral procession. They killed 150 civilians and 500 people.

They killed 150 civilians and 500 people. We just let it go on. We keep giving them weapons. I have tried to stop selling bombs to the Saudi Arabians, but the majority up here says: Keep giving them to them. Keep giving them the weapons, and let them indiscriminately kill whoever the hell they want.

So NATO—should we expand it? Perhaps what we should do is make it clear that the NATO treaty is not a blind, open-ended promise to go to war anywhere, anytime.

Before we go to final passage, I will offer one amendment. This amendment will be blocked because they do not want debate and because they will be embarrassed if they have to vote against this amendment. But realize what this amendment asks. My amendment states that nothing in the NATO

treaty—particularly the article 5 promise to come to the rescue of anyone attacked—none of this can happen without an official vote to declare war. So what is my amendment stating? The Constitution—article I, section 8—says we don't go to war without a vote and a debate. Do you know what they will do to get around it? I think we can assume that they are against the Constitution because they are not going to allow the amendment. How long would it take? It takes 15 minutes to vote around here. I am about done speaking. We could have one 15-minute vote on an amendment. I would grant back the time if we would have a vote, but they don't want to debate it because they are embarrassed that they are sending your sons and daughters to war without ever debating or voting on it.

This, to me, is a tragedy. It is sad to me. It makes me ashamed of the body that we will do this. Probably what is worse is then they clamor to the floor, their mouths agape, ajar, calling other people traitors, acting as if I care less about your sons and daughters because I want to have a debate on war before we go to war, preventing an amendment from happening and then having the gall to come to the floor and accuse their philosophic opponents of being traitors and being allies with the Russians.

Is this what we have come to? Is this where we are as America, that you can't take a principled stand against war; that you can't stand up on principle and say: Are we really going to go to war over Montenegro, over Ukraine? Are we really going to go to war over Georgia? And then you are accused of not being patriotic to your country.

I care as much as anybody about our soldiers. When I talk to our young men and women who serve, do you know what they tell me? They want someone to stand up and have a debate. They will do what they are told. Our soldiers are brave, and they will go where they are told, and they will obey orders. But the people here who are these mouthpieces for war, who think every soldier wants to go to war, I suggest they go out and meet the soldiers and ask them whether they want the civilian Senators to debate and have a formal declaration of war. That is all I am asking for-15 minutes and an amendment that says we will obey the Constitution.

If article 5 says we need to go to war and Montenegro is attacked, we will do the proper thing. We will come to the floor of the Senate. We are not sending troops to Montenegro without a vote on the floor of the Senate. Is that too much to ask for? We will see.

Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 199 that says we should obey the Constitution and that we should declare war before we go to war.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. JOHNSON). Is there objection to setting aside the pending amendment?

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I reserve the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I work very close with my friend from Kentucky. There were some awfully strong things that were just said. I don't think they were directed necessarily at me.

I think there has been a little bit of an evolution here. I know that the reason we are having to go through this process of filibustering a treaty is the fact that the Senator from Kentucky wanted a vote on an unrelated amendment relative to surveillance here in our own country. When he was unable to get that agreement, he decided to filibuster a treaty. So that is what is happening here.

I am interested to hear this evolution of why we are having this debate. Let me just say, having dealt with this issue firsthand—and I know he knows this—this filibuster is about something totally unrelated to the amendment that is being offered right now.

I know the Senator from Kentucky, my friend, knows that I have offered authorizations for the use of force. I did so against Syria, and I am glad to have a debate on authorizations for the use of force, and I think we should. I know the administration is developing a strategy around ISIS right now, and when they complete that, it is my hope that we will, in fact, update the 2001 AUMF.

I think it has been stated by past administrations that the authorization they are utilizing as it relates to ISIS is legal. I believe them to be correct. But I will say that I agree we ought to have another debate on the issue of authorizing the fight against ISIS, and I hope we will do so as soon as this administration completes the process of laying out what their plan is. Then we can debate that and then hopefully update that authorization. I don't know what that has to do with a treaty with Montenegro. There has been a lot that has been said, and I don't know how it necessarily ties together. But the fact is, when you enter into an article 5 treaty—which has, by the way, passed out of our committee on two occasions-you are, in fact, saying under article 5 that a war against one is a war against all and that we will come to their defense. So the amendment itself, if we were to vote on it, would basically negate that.

I think the Senator from Kentucky could have had this vote, but the fact is that 98 Senators wanted to have this vote—have wanted to have this vote for months, I might add—and we have had to come to this point of filing cloture.

So, with that, with good will toward the Senator, with good will toward the other 97 Senators here who would like to pass this posthaste, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, it is important to know what just happened. We closed off the debate, and as far as a fil-

ibuster goes, we are having a debate and a vote. What they wanted was a rubberstamp and an easy passage without debate. We are having a bit of a debate, and that is good. Unfortunately, we will not be allowed to amend the bill.

My amendment is germane to the bill. It has to do with what article 5 means in the treaty we are signing. What it says is that we will not necessarily take article 5 to mean that we are going to war, that we would do the constitutional duty, and that is to vote about whether we go to war. So the amendment is very clear that we would obey the Constitution.

By blocking the vote, we have to realize that those blocking the vote have decided that really it should be automatic, that your sons and daughters will be sent to war automatically without a vote, without a declaration of war. You say: Well, maybe they don't mean that. Maybe they would obey the Constitution.

They don't now. So everything in evidence shows us that the chance that in the future they will obey the Constitution is about zero. But so ashamed are they of the fact that we will fight more wars without a declaration, without a vote—they won't allow a vote on the amendment because they would be voting against the Constitution. So, instead, they will block the amendment.

That is essentially what this debate is about: Are we automatically obligated to go to war without a vote by Congress? That is what the vote is about. It is incredibly germane. It goes to the heart of the bill. It goes to the heart of the NATO treaty. Does article 5 mean you automatically go to war, or would you go through the normal processes of going to war? Now, some will say: Oh, well, we would never go to war. It might not be so bad, but it would be difficult.

Do you know when we have gone to war? We have actually gone unanimously when we have done it the right way. When we were attacked on 9/11 and they came to Congress, do you know what the vote was? Unanimous. We are not about letting people attack us as a country, and I would have voted for that.

When we were attacked in Pearl Harbor, what did FDR do? The thing that great leaders would do—and I am not a huge fan always of FDR, but he did the right thing. He came to Congress the next day. I think it was on December 8 that they voted unanimously to go to war. That is the way it was done once upon a time.

When you are attacked, people do rally to the country and they rally to the flag, but we shouldn't have an automatic stamp that says: We are going to war anywhere without any restraint, without any control or separation of power.

So I object strenuously to this, and I wish we were more open in this body and in our country to a debate about when we are going to go to war.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, before I suggest the absence of a quorum, I would like to say that the Constitution calls for treaties to be enacted by this body, which is what we are doing today. Everybody understands what NATO is and has understood it since the late 1940s. This is the kind of treaty that we would like for other people to be a member of, and today Montenegro, which has gone through the full process of accession, hopefully will be passed through this body.

This is the last country, by the way—every other country that is a member of NATO has voted to cause Montenegro to join NATO.

I know my friend from Maryland, the ranking member, Senator CARDIN, has just arrived. I know he has a few words to say. He is a strong supporter of Montenegro's accession, as is the vast majority of this Senate.

I will let the comments from the Senator from Kentucky lie. We are doing our constitutional duty by passing a treaty that we all understood. It has been debated fully in committee. It has been passed out twice. I am glad we are doing so. The fact is, this has been blocked by one Senator who wanted to vote on something totally unrelated to this and was using this as leverage. That is what is occurring here, nothing else. We are finally, through cloture, having a vote on something that the majority of people in the Senate want to pass.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 7 minutes prior to the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.
Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I thank
Chairman CORKER for the manner in
which this resolution of ratification
has been handled in the Senate Foreign
Relations Committee. It has been handled in a nonpartisan way. We have had
hearings, we have had votes, we have
had a lot of conversations about it, and
at last we are going to get a chance to
vote on the ratification. So I come to
the floor to speak in support of this
resolution of ratification regarding the
Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty
of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro.

I have been a strong supporter of Montenegro's bid to join NATO. It will enhance our security, it will strengthen the alliance, and it will send a strong message of resolve to Russia as it invades its neighbors and seeks to upend the international order. Montenegro's inclusion in NATO will have positive repercussions across the continent and will send an important message of hope to aspirant countries.

Last week, I met with Montenegro's Foreign Minister, and he described Russia's persistent efforts to weaken support for NATO membership in Montenegro. Last October, Russia interfered in the Montenegrin elections.

There was a plot to assassinate the former Prime Minister of Montenegro and take over the Montenegrin Parliament. The suspects in that case scurried back to Moscow, and the Russian authorities refused to turn them over to the Montenegrins or even make them available for questioning in Moscow. To this day, Russian-supported NGOs and media propaganda continue to rail against Montenegro's NATO membership.

Russia does not get a veto over decisions of the alliance. We need to send a strong message of resolve. This is not an isolated circumstance with Russia. We have seen how they interfered in our elections. We have seen what they are doing in Europe today.

We see all these different activities by Russia, and we have to protect ourselves. One way we protect ourselves is by making our own decisions as to who should be admitted into NATO. Another is that we should have an independent commission take a look at what Russia was doing in their interference with our elections and what they are trying to do in trying to compromise our democratic system of government. I think the events that occurred in recent weeks of additional contacts that Russia made with members of the Trump administration just underscore the importance for that independent commission to take a look at what happened.

I stand here today in support of NATO enlargement. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee recently voted by voice vote in support of this bid—unanimously, Democrats and Republicans. This is not a partisan issue. We have had a request from the President to take up this issue. Nearly all NATO members have approved Montenegro's bid. We are among the last to ratify, and we must get the job done. Tonight, we can take a major

step forward in that regard.

What is the case for Montenegro's membership? Admission of Montenegro would mark another important step forward, fully integrating the Balkans into international institutions that have helped to contribute to peace and stability over the years in Europe. Croatia and Albania joined the alliance in 2009 and have been valuable contributors to accomplishing NATO's objectives since then. I hope that Montenegro's admission will help them motivate the reforms necessary for other Balkan countries to join.

Montenegro has made outsized contributions to NATO missions, despite not being a full member. I understand that in Afghanistan, Montenegro has rotated 20 percent of its armed forces through the ISAF and the resolute support missions. Twenty percent of their force—that is a substantial contribution. It also contributed to the peacekeeping mission in Kosovo and other NATO missions.

No country outside the alliance gets a veto over who gets to join, especially Russia. So we must send a strong sig- cruz

nal. I urge my colleagues to pass this resolution and get it to the President so the President can deposit the instrument of ratification at NATO in support of Montenegro's bid. I urge my colleagues to support the mission.

I yield back the remainder of my

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

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

#### 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 Treaties Calendar No. 1, treaty document No. 114-12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro.

Mitch McConnell, Cory Gardner, Steve Daines, John Barrasso, Joni K. Ernst, Bob Corker, John Cornyn, Lindsey Graham, Jeff Flake, James M. Inhofe, Roy Blunt, David Perdue, John McCain, Pat Roberts, Tom Cotton, Jerry Moran, Mike Rounds.

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 Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 97, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 97 Ex.]

	YEAS—97	
Alexander	Daines	Kennedy
Baldwin	Donnelly	King
Barrasso	Duckworth	Klobuchar
Bennet	Durbin	Lankford
Blumenthal	Enzi	Leahy
Blunt	Ernst	Manchin
Booker	Feinstein	Markey
Boozman	Fischer	McCain
Brown	Flake	McCaskill
Burr	Franken	McConnell
Cantwell	Gardner	Menendez
Capito	Gillibrand	Merkley
Cardin	Graham	Moran
Carper	Grassley	Murkowski
Casey	Harris	Murphy
Cassidy	Hassan	Murray
Cochran	Hatch	Nelson
Collins	Heinrich	Perdue
Coons	Heitkamp	Peters
Corker	Heller	Portman
Cornyn	Hirono	Reed
Cortez Masto	Hoeven	Risch
Cotton	Inhofe	Roberts
Crapo	Johnson	Rounds
Cruz	Kaine	Rubio

Sanders	Strange	Warner
Sasse	Sullivan	Warren
Schatz	Tester	Whitehouse
Schumer	Thune	Wicker
Scott	Tillis	Wyden
Shaheen	Toomey	Young
Shelby	Udall	roung
Stabenow	Van Hollen	
	NAYS—2	
Lee	Paul	
	NOT VOTING	<del>3</del> —1
	Isakson	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 97, the nays are 2.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

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

PRESIDING OFFICER. The The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today in favor of the resolution of ratification for Montenegro's accession to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, better known as NATO.

Many of my colleagues are unaware of the fact that the State of Maine has a special relationship with Montenegro. It is through the National Guard State Partnership Program.

I thank the majority leader, Senator McConnell, Chairman Corker, Senator McCain, the Democratic leadership, Senator Johnson, Senator Mur-PHY, and all of those who were instrumental in bringing this resolution to the floor for consideration today.

Montenegro's accession to NATO will serve the strategic interests of the United States, it will help to promote stability in the Balkans, and it will make us safer. Montenegro has already proven its support for American interests, having sent troops to Afghanistan in support of NATO- and U.S.-led operations there. Although not yet a member of the European Union, Montenegro also voluntarily joined the EU sanctions regime against Russia in response to Moscow's illegal annexation of Crimea and destabilizing actions in eastern Ukraine. Most important, I have great confidence that Montenegro will meet the collective defense obligations of NATO membership.

For the past 10 years, with the assistance of the Maine National Guard through the State Partnership Program, Montenegro has worked hard to reform its military and to strengthen the rule of law to come into compliance with NATO requirements, as defined in NATO's Membership Action Plan. Even today, Maine National Guard members are deployed to Montenegro to assist its Ministry of Defense in furthering its integration into NATO standards and processes.

I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all of the members of the Maine National Guard who have participated in this operation, including the former and current adjutant general, GEN Bill Libby and GEN Doug Farnham, as well as our current guardsman stationed in Montenegro, Army CPT Nicolas Phillips. All of them have worked very hard during the past 10 years to help Montenegro get ready for this highly significant moment.

We must be clear-eyed about the fact that the Russian Federation has undertaken an extensive overt and covert campaign to derail Montenegro's bid to join NATO. These efforts include a brazen plot to disrupt Montenegro's elections last October and to turn the public against the pro-NATO ruling government there. According Montenegro's special prosecutor assigned to the investigation, at least two Russian intelligence officers actively participated in this plot, which fortunately was disrupted.

Ratifying Montenegro's NATO membership demonstrates our firm resolve against Russia's efforts to deny other countries the opportunity to participate in NATO free from outside interference. That is why the Supreme Allied Commander for Europe and NATO testified just last week before the Senate Armed Services Committee that it is "absolutely critical" that Montenegro join NATO.

As President Trump prepares to travel to the NATO leaders' summit in Brussels at the end of May, I can think of no better action for the Senate to have taken ahead of his visit than our action tonight to finally ratify Montenegro's membership in NATO. In the meantime, I also look forward to the continued special relationship between Montenegro and the great State of Maine.

Thank you. Mr. President.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

## WEEK ON THE STATUS OF BLACK WOMEN

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I wish to request that the U.S. Government officially recognize the last week

in March as the Week on the Status of Black Women. During the week of March 27, 2017, as part of Women's History Month and in honor of the United Nations Declaration designating 2015 as the Decade of Afro-Descendants, this week marks the perfect occasion on which to begin an annual recognition and celebration of Black women's contributions to American society.

Black women have long gone above and beyond the call of duty in their contributions to American society through civic engagement, high voter turnout, and serving as leaders in their communities. Even in the face of grave oppression throughout our Nation's history, Black women have continued to stand strong and contribute to the well-being of their families, communities, and our country as a whole. A recognition of the Week on the Status of Black Women by the Trump administration and Congress would send a clear message that the Federal Government recognizes the unique struggles and achievements of Black women in America.

Black women have consistently played a leading role in shaping our Nation's history, often behind the scenes and with little recognition. Harriet Tubman escaped slavery and bravely returned to the enslaved South over a dozen times to lead her people to freedom on the Underground Railroad. A century later, Rosa Parks witnessed the oppression of her fellow Black women and took an active role in organizing the Montgomery Bus Boycott, while also taking up Black women's sexual harassment claims. Today, a Black woman, Carla Havden, is our Nation's Librarian of Congress. Recognition of the Week on the Status of Black Women would honor the sacrifices of women such as Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks, who paved the way for so many Black women in public service, business, and other industries today.

Yet even as Black women throughout our Nation's history have been leaders in American civic life, Black women today still continue to face many undue burdens. No one in America should have to choose between earning a paycheck and taking care of their family, but too many Black women who serve as primary family breadwinners are forced to make this painful choice. Black women continue to earn less than their male counteiparts and also less than women who are not Black. Black women remain at the economic margins of society, and we all have a responsibility to help fix that.

This year, a coalition of organizations advocating for the well-being of women and communities of color will partner to elevate the stories, histories, and realities of Black women's lives. Each day of the week, starting on March 27 and continuing through March 31, will focus on a different challenge Black women face in society today, ranging from disproportionate experience with police violence to dis-

criminatory media representation. Exploring these issues and acknowledging the centrality of Black women to our history and social fabric, along with recognizing the unique intersection of gendered and racialized inequities they face, is critical. As we continue to work to extend equal rights to all Americans, we must ensure that Black women are a leading part of this movement. I hope and request that this year will be a continuation of years past in celebration and intentional recognition of Black women in America through the Week on the Status of Black Women.

## REMEMBERING ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life and dedicated service to our country of my friend and colleague, Eni F. H. Faleomavaega of American Samoa. I had the honor of serving with him in the U.S. House and was deeply saddened to hear of his passing on Wednesday, February 22, 2017.

Eni served 13 terms as the Delegate from American Samoa, and we worked together because of his close ties to Hawaii. Eni's strong ties and service to Hawaii makes him a "keiki o ka aina." He was a graduate of Kahuku High School and the Church College, the forerunner to Brigham Young University in Laie, HI. Eni was a passionate advocate for indigenous peoples including native Hawaiians. Whether it was Federal recognition or health and housing programs for native Hawaiians, Hawaii could always count on Eni's outspoken support and assistance. One of the stories Eni enjoyed sharing was about his experience sailing on the voyaging canoe Hokulea in 1987, and in August 2014, he welcomed the arrival of the Hokulea and Hikianalia arrival in American Samoa and offered his best wishes to Malama Honua Worldwide Voyage.

I always appreciated his warm presence at the annual Kamehameha Day Lei Draping Ceremony at the capitol where he would often perform traditional Samoan chant and dance. Of course, he also served his American Samoa constituents in Congress with distinction for two decades. During his service in the House, he rose to become the first Asian-Pacific American to serve as chairman of the House Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific. He brought his unique perspective as a Pacific Islander to this post and constructively worked to raise the concerns of the region in Congress.

Eni was also a veteran of the Vietnam war and a selfless advocate for his fellow veterans in American Samoa and across the Nation. Thanks to Eni's efforts, American Samoa veterans can now receive their healthcare from a Department of Veterans Affairs clinic built in Pago Pago with funds he helped secure. It is therefore most appropriate that the House and Senate

recently passed H.R. 1362, a bill to name this clinic after him.

I join my colleagues in extending my deepest sympathies to his wife, Hinanui Hunkin, their 10 children, and their 15 grandchildren. Eni will be dearly missed by his extended ohana in Hawaii and all whose lives were touched by his leadership and service.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

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

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTIONS SIGNED

At 3:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled joint resolutions:

H.J. Res. 69. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the final rule of the Department of the Interior relating to "Non-Subsistence Take of Wildlife, and Public Participation and Closure Procedures, on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska".

H.J. Res. 83. Joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to "Clarification of Employer's Continuing Obligation to Make and Maintain an Accurate Record of Each Recordable Injury and Illness".

The enrolled joint resolutions were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

At 3:05 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1302. An act to require an exercise related to terrorist and foreign fighter travel, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1365. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require certain acquisition innovation, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1302. An act to require an exercise related to terrorist and foreign fighter travel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1365. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require certain acqui-

sition innovation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

## 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-1092. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, 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 March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1093. A communication from the Assistant Director for Legislative Affairs, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act for 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1094. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Minority and Women Outreach Program" (RIN2590-AA87) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1095. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Walk-in Coolers and Walk-in Freezers" (RIN1904–AD72) received in the Office of the President of Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1096. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Efficient Standards for the Design and Construction of New Federal Low-Rise Residential Buildings' Baseline Standards Update" (RIN1904-AD56) received in the Office of the President of Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1097. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Ceiling Fans" (RIN1904-AD28) received in the Office of the President of Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1098. A communication from the Division Chief, Freedom of Information Act Public Liaison, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Freedom of Information Act Regulations" (RIN0412-AA89) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 16, 2017; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1099. A communication from the Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Australia Concerning Defense Trade Cooperation and the International Traffic in Arms Regulations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1100. A communication from the Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of

State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to U.S. support for Taiwan's participation as an observer at the 69th World Health Assembly and in the work of the World Health Organization; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1101. A communication from the Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's Alternative Fuel Vehicle (AFV) program for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1102. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2017-0032 - 2017-0049); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1103. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Open Licensing Requirement for Competitive Grant Programs" (RIN1810-AA07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2017; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1104. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Presiding Officer for an Appeal and Informal Hearing; Technical Amendments" (Docket No. FDA-2017-N-0011) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2017; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1105. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits" (29 CFR Part 4022 and 29 CFR Part 4044) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1106. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Clarification of When Products Made or Derived From Tobacco Are Regulated as Drugs, Devices, or Combination Products; Amendments to Regulations Regarding 'Intended Uses'; Further Delayed Effective Date; Request for Comments" ((RIN0910-AH19) (Docket No. FDA-2015-N-2002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1107. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, "UDC's Vision 2020 Plan: How Much Progress Has Been Made?"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1108. A communication from the Secretary to the Board, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's fiscal year 2016 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1109. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of

Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedures for Central Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps" (RIN1904–AD71) received in the Office of the President of Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1110. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedures for Compressors" (RIN1904-AD43) received in the Office of the President of Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1111. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Efficiency Standards for the Design and Construction of New Federal Low-Rise Residential Buildings' Baseline Standards Update" (RIN1904-AD56) received in the Office of the President of Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1112. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Eastport Breakwater Terminal, Eastport, Maine" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-1037)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Com-

merce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1113. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Cooper River Bridge Run, Cooper River and Town Creek Reaches, Charleston, SC" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2017-0021)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1114. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone, TICO Warbird Air Show; Indian River, Titusville, FL" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2017-0130)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1315. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; James River, Newport News, VA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2017-0051)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and

Transportation.

EC-1116. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Anchorage Regulations: Special Anchorage Areas; Marina del Rey Harbor, Marina del Rey, CA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-0142)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1117. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulated Navigation Areas; Escorted Submarines Sector Jacksonville Captain of the Port Zone" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0032)) received in the Office of the

President of the Senate on March 22, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

Special Report entitled "History, Jurisdiction, and a Summary of Activities of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources During the 114th Congress" (Rept. No. 115–10).

By Mr. HOEVEN, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

S. 269. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Tanana Tribal Council located in Tanana, Alaska, and to the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation located in Dillingham, Alaska, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115–11).

## 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. BURR (for himself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 723. A bill to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 724. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to modernize authorizations for necessary hydropower approvals; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. McCAIN:

S. 725. A bill to prohibit the intentional hindering of immigration, border, and customs controls, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 726. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to declassify certain documents related to incidents in which members of the Armed Forces were exposed to toxic substances; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 727. A bill to increase the worldwide level of employment-based immigrants and to reauthorize the EB-5 regional center program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. McCONNELL (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 728. A bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to provide funds to States and Indian tribes for the purpose of promoting economic revitalization, diversification, and development in economically distressed communities through the reclamation and restoration of land and water resources adversely affected by coal mining carried out before August 3, 1977, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. HARRIS (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 729. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire approximately 44 acres of land in Martinez, California, for inclusion in the John Muir National Historic Site, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KAINE:

S. 730. A bill to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of certain hydroelectric projects; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 731. A bill to establish the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 732. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable tax credit against income tax for the purchase of qualified access technology for the blind; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MANCHIN, and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. 733. A bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 734. A bill to extend a project of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission involving the Cannonsville Dam; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. BAR-RASSO, Mr. HELLER, and Mr. ROB-ERTS):

S. 735. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require disclosure to States of the basis of determinations under such Act, to ensure use of information provided by State, tribal, and county governments in decisionmaking under such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. Cardin, Mr. Carper, Mr. Risch, Mr. Wicker, Mr. Isakson, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Blunt, and Mr. Boozman):

S. 736. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for collegiate housing and infrastructure grants; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 737. A bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to improve coal leasing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. Brown, Mr. Kaine, Mr. Casey, and Mr. Warner):

S. 738. A bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to provide funds to States and Indian tribes for the purpose of promoting economic revitalization, diversification, and development in economically distressed communities through the reclamation and restoration of land and water resources adversely affected by coal mining carried out before August 3, 1977, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. Mar-KEY, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. Res. 98. A resolution designating the first week of April 2017 as "National Asbestos Awareness Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. COTTON):

S. Res. 99. A resolution recognizing the 11 African-American soldiers of the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion who were massacred in Wereth, Belgium, during the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. McCAIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COONS, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. Res. 100. A resolution condemning illegal Russian aggression in Ukraine on the three year anniversary of the annexation of Crimea; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 27

At the request of Mr. Cardin, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. Peters) was added as a cosponsor of S. 27, a bill to establish an independent commission to examine and report on the facts regarding the extent of Russian official and unofficial cyber operations and other attempts to interfere in the 2016 United States national election, and for other purposes.

S. 175

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 175, a bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to transfer certain funds to the Multiemployer Health Benefit Plan and the 1974 United Mine Workers of America Pension Plan, and for other purposes.

S. 198

At the request of Mr. Rubio, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Booker) was added as a cosponsor of S. 198, a bill to require continued and enhanced annual reporting to Congress in the Annual Report on International Religious Freedom on anti-Semitic incidents in Europe, the safety and security of European Jewish communities, and the efforts of the United States to partner with European governments, the European Union, and civil society groups, to combat anti-Semitism, and for other purposes.

S. 236

At the request of Mr. Wyden, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. Gillibrand) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. Murkowski) were added as cosponsors of S. 236, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform taxation of alcoholic beverages.

S. 261

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) were added as cosponsors of S. 261, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to improve and clarify certain disclosure requirements for restaurants and similar retail food establishments, and to amend the authority to bring proceedings under section 403A.

S. 292

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. Shaheen) was added as a cosponsor of S. 292, a bill to maximize discovery, and accelerate development

and availability, of promising childhood cancer treatments, and for other purposes.

S. 324

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 324, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of adult day health care services for veterans.

S. 334

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 334, a bill to clarify that a State has the sole authority to regulate hydraulic fracturing on Federal land within the boundaries of the State.

S. 339

At the request of Mr. Nelson, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. Scott) was added as a cosponsor of S. 339, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 357

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 357, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain public lands in San Bernardino County, California, to the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District, and to accept in return certain exchanged nonpublic lands, and for other purposes.

S. 364

At the request of Ms. Klobuchar, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. Ernst) was added as a cosponsor of S. 364, a bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to exempt certain recipients of Department of Agriculture conservation assistance from certain reporting requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 372

At the request of Mr. Portman, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. Warren) was added as a cosponsor of S. 372, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to ensure that merchandise arriving through the mail shall be subject to review by U.S. Customs and Border Protection and to require the provision of advance electronic information on shipments of mail to U.S. Customs and Border Protection and for other purposes.

S. 375

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 375, a bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to establish a procedure for approval of certain settlements.

S. 376

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of

S. 376, a bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require publication on the Internet of the basis for determinations that species are endangered species or threatened species, and for other purposes.

S. 381

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 381, a bill to repeal the Act entitled "An Act to confer jurisdiction on the State of Iowa over offenses committed by or against Indians on the Sac and Fox Indian Reservation".

S 382

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 382, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a voluntary registry to collect data on cancer incidence among firefighters.

S. 407

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 407, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 415

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 415, a bill to nullify the effect of the recent Executive order that makes the vast majority of unauthorized individuals priorities for removal and aims to withhold critical Federal funding to sanctuary cities.

S. 422

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 422, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

S. 447

At the request of Ms. Baldwin, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Menendez) was added as a cosponsor of S. 447, a bill to require reporting on acts of certain foreign countries on Holocaust era assets and related issues.

At the request of Mr. Rubio, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. Young) was added as a cosponsor of S. 447. supra.

S. 588

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 588, a bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to clarify what constitutes a general solicitation under the Federal securities laws, and for other purposes.

S. 602

At the request of Ms. Collins, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Coons) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 602, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include automated fire sprinkler system retrofits as section 179 property and classify certain automated fire sprinkler system retrofits as 15-year property for purposes of depreciation.

S. 605

At the request of Mr. Daines, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. Crapo) was added as a cosponsor of S. 605, a bill to amend the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to discourage litigation against the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management relating to land management projects.

S. 655

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 655, a bill to exempt certain 16- and 17-year-old individuals employed in logging operations from child labor laws.

S. 672

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 672, a bill to require a report on designation of North Korea as a state sponsor of terrorism, and for other purposes.

S. 681

At the request of Mr. Tester, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. Reed) was added as a cosponsor of S. 681, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the benefits and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to women veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 692

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 692, a bill to provide for integrated plan permits, to establish an Office of the Municipal Ombudsman, to promote green infrastructure, and to require the revision of financial capability guidance.

S. 720

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Maine (Ms. Collins) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Blumenthal) were added as cosponsors of S. 720, a bill to amend the Export Administration Act of 1979 to include in the prohibitions on boycotts against allies of the United States boycotts fostered by international governmental organizations against Israel and to direct the Export-Import Bank of the United States to oppose boycotts against Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 721

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 721, a bill to require the disclosure of certain visitor access records.

S.J. RES. 2

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 2, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to limiting the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve.

S. RES. 93

At the request of Mrs. Shaheen, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Murphy) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 93, a resolution congratulating the European Union on the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome, which established the European Economic Community and laid the foundation for decades of European peace and prosperity.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. McCONNELL (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 728. A bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to provide funds to States and Indian tribes for the purpose of promoting economic revitalization, diversification, and development in economically distressed communities through the reclamation and restoration of land and water resources adversely affected by coal mining carried out before August 3, 1977, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

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

S. 728

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 "Revitalizing the Economy of Coal Communities by Leveraging Local Activities and Investing More Act of 2017" or the "RECLAIM Act of 2017".

## SEC. 2. ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION FOR COAL COUNTRY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title IV of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1231 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

## "SEC. 416. ABANDONED MINE LAND ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION.

"(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to promote economic revitalization, diversification, and development in economically distressed mining communities through the reclamation and restoration of land and water resources adversely affected by coal mining carried out before August 3, 1977.

"(b) In General.—From amounts deposited into the fund under section 401(b) before October 1, 2007, and not otherwise appropriated to the extent such funds are available, \$200,000,000 shall be made available to the Secretary, without further appropriation, for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021 for distribution to States and Indian tribes in accordance with this section for reclamation and restoration projects at sites identified as priorities under section 403(a): Provided, That

if less than \$200,000,000 is available in any fiscal year to the Secretary, such remaining amount shall be made available to the Secretary, without further appropriation, and such fiscal year shall end distributions made available under this section.

"(c) USE OF FUNDS FOR PRIORITY SITES.—Funds distributed to a State or Indian tribe under subsection (d) shall be used only for projects classified under the priorities of section 403(a). In addition, if the project is classified under paragraph (3) of such section, the project also must meet the following criteria:

"(1) CONTRIBUTION TO FUTURE ECONOMIC OR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The project, upon completion of reclamation, is intended to create favorable conditions for the economic development of the project site or create favorable conditions that promote the general welfare through economic and community development of the area in which the project is conducted.

"(B) DEMONSTRATION OF CONDITIONS.—Such conditions are demonstrated by—

"(i) documentation of the role of the project in such area's economic development strategy or other economic and community development planning process;

"(ii) any other documentation of the planned economic and community use of the project site after the primary reclamation activities are completed, which may include contracts, agreements in principle, or other evidence that, once reclaimed, the site is reasonably anticipated to be used for one or more industrial, commercial, residential, agricultural, or recreational purposes: or

"(iii) any other documentation agreed to by the State or Indian tribe that demonstrates the project will meet the criteria set forth in this subsection.

"(2) LOCATION IN COMMUNITY AFFECTED BY RECENT DECLINE IN MINING.—The project will be conducted in a community—

"(A) that has been adversely affected economically by a recent reduction in coal mining-related activity, as demonstrated by employment data, per capita income, or other indicators of reduced economic activity attributable to such reduction: or

"(B)(i) that has historically relied on coal mining for a substantial portion of its economy; and

"(ii) in which the economic contribution of coal mining has significantly declined.

"(3) STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The project has been the subject of project planning under subsection (g) and has been the focus of collaboration, including partnerships, as appropriate, with interested persons or local organizations.

"(B) PUBLIC NOTICE.—As part of project planning, the public has been notified and has been given an opportunity to comment at a public meeting convened in a community near the proposed site.

"(4) ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.—The project has been proposed by entities of State, local, county, or tribal governments, or local organizations, and will be approved and executed by State or tribal programs, approved under section 405 or referred to in section 402(g)(8)(B), which may include subcontracting project-related activities, as appropriate.

"(d) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—

"(1) UNCERTIFIED STATES.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—From the amount made available in subsection (b), the Secretary shall distribute \$195,000,000 annually for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021 to States and Indian tribes that have a State or tribal program approved under section 405 or are referred to in section 402(g)(8)(B), and have not made a certification under section 411(a) in

which the Secretary has concurred, as follows:

- "(i) Four-fifths of such amount shall be distributed based on the proportion of the amount of coal historically produced in each State or from the lands of each Indian tribe concerned before August 3, 1977.
- "(ii) One-fifth of such amount shall be distributed based on the proportion of reclamation fees paid during the period of fiscal years 2012 through 2016 for lands in each State or lands of each Indian tribe concerned.
- "(B) SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS.—Funds distributed under this section—
- "(i) shall be in addition to, and shall not affect, the amount of funds distributed—
- "(I) to States and Indian tribes under section 401(f); and
- "(II) to States and Indian tribes that have made a certification under section 411(a) in which the Secretary has concurred, subject to the cap described in section 402(i)(3); and
- "(ii) shall not reduce any funds distributed to a State or Indian tribe by reason of the application of section 402(g)(8).
- "(2) ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO CERTAIN STATES AND INDIAN TRIBES.—
- "(A) ELIGIBILITY.—From the amount made available in subsection (b), the Secretary shall distribute \$5,000,000 annually for each of the five fiscal years beginning with fiscal year 2017 to States and Indian tribes that have a State program approved under section 405 and have made a certification under section 411(a) in which the Secretary has concurred.
- "(B) APPLICATION FOR FUNDS.—Using the process in section 405(f), any State or Indian tribe described in subparagraph (A) may submit a grant application to the Secretary for funds under this paragraph. The Secretary shall review each grant application to confirm that the projects identified in the application for funding are eligible under subsection (c).
- "(C) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—The amount of funds distributed to each State or Indian tribe under this paragraph shall be determined by the Secretary based on the demonstrated need for the funding to accomplish the purpose of this section.
- "(3) REALLOCATION OF UNCOMMITTED FUNDS —
- "(A) COMMITTED DEFINED.—For purposes of this paragraph the term 'committed'—
- "(i) means that funds received by the State or Indian tribe—
- "(I) have been exclusively applied to or reserved for a specific project and therefore are not available for any other purpose; or
- "(II) have been expended or designated by the State or Indian tribe for the completion of a project;
- "(ii) includes use of any amount for project planning under subsection (g); and
- "(iii) reflects an acknowledgment by Congress that, based on the documentation required under subsection (c)(2)(B), any unanticipated delays to commit such funds that are outside the control of the State or Indian tribe concerned shall not affect its allocations under this section.
- "(B) FISCAL YEARS 2020 AND 2021.—For each of fiscal years 2020 and 2021, the Secretary shall reallocate in accordance with subparagraph (D) any amount available for distribution under this subsection that has not been committed to eligible projects in the preceding 2 fiscal years, among the States and Indian tribes that have committed to eligible projects the full amount of their annual allocation for the preceding fiscal year.
- "(C) FISCAL YEAR 2022.—For fiscal year 2022, the Secretary shall reallocate in accordance with subparagraph (D) any amount available for distribution under this subsection that has not been committed to eligible projects

- or distributed under paragraph (1)(A), among the States and Indian tribes that have committed to eligible projects the full amount of their annual allocation for the preceding fiscal years.
- "(D) AMOUNT OF REALLOCATION.—The amount reallocated to each State or Indian tribe under each of subparagraphs (B) and (C) shall be determined by the Secretary to reflect, to the extent practicable—
- "(i) the proportion of unreclaimed eligible lands and waters the State or Indian tribe has in the inventory maintained under section 403(c):
- "(ii) the average of the proportion of reclamation fees paid for lands in each State or lands of each Indian tribe concerned; and
- "(iii) the proportion of coal mining employment loss incurred in the State or on lands of the Indian tribe, respectively, as determined by the Mine Safety and Health Administration, over the 5-year period preceding the fiscal year for which the reallocation is made.
- "(e) RESOLUTION OF SECRETARY'S CONCERNS; CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—If the Secretary does not agree with a State or Indian tribe that a proposed project meets the criteria set forth in subsection (c)—
- "(1) the Secretary and the State or tribe shall meet and confer for a period of not more than 45 days to resolve the Secretary's concerns, except that such period may be shortened by the Secretary if the Secretary's concerns are resolved;
- "(2) during that period, at the State's or Indian tribe's request, the Secretary may consult with any appropriate Federal agency; and
- "(3) at the end of that period, if the Secretary's concerns are not resolved the Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate an explanation of the concerns and such project proposal shall not be eligible for funds distributed under this section
  - "(f) ACID MINE DRAINAGE TREATMENT.—
- "(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), a State or Indian tribe that receives funds under this section may use up to 30 percent of such funds as necessary to supplement the State's or tribe's acid mine drainage abatement and treatment fund established under section 402(g)(6)(A), for future operation and maintenance costs for the treatment of acid mine drainage associated with the individual projects funded under this section. A State or Indian tribe shall specify the total funds allotted for such costs in its application submitted under subsection (d)(2)(B).
- "(2) CONDITION.—A State or Indian tribe may use funds under this subsection only if the State or tribe can demonstrate that the annual grant distributed to the State or tribe pursuant to section 401(f), including any interest from the State's or tribe's acid mine drainage abatement and treatment fund that is not used for the operation or maintenance of preexisting acid mine drainage treatment systems, is insufficient to fund the operation and maintenance of any acid mine drainage treatment system associated with an individual project funded under this section.
- "(g) Project Planning and Administration.—
- "(1) STATES AND INDIAN TRIBES.—
- "(A) IN GENERAL.—A State or Indian tribe may use up to 10 percent of its annual distribution under this section for project planning and the costs of administering this section.
- "(B) PLANNING REQUIREMENTS.—Planning under this paragraph may include—
  - "(i) identifying eligible projects;

- "(ii) updating the inventory referred to in section 403(c);
  - "(iii) developing project designs;
- "(iv) collaborating with stakeholders, including public meetings;
  - "(v) preparing cost estimates; or
- "(vi) engaging in other similar activities necessary to facilitate reclamation activities under this section.
- "(2) SECRETARY.—The Secretary may expend, from amounts made available to the Secretary under section 402(g)(3)(D), not more than \$3,000,000 during the fiscal years for which distributions occur under subsection (b) for staffing and other administrative expenses necessary to carry out this section.
- "(h) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate at the end of each fiscal year for which such funds are distributed a detailed report—
- "(1) on the various projects that have been undertaken with such funds;
- "(2) the extent and degree of reclamation using such funds that achieved the priorities described in paragraph (1) or (2) of section 403(a):
- "(3) the community and economic benefits that are resulting from, or are expected to result from, the use of the funds that achieved the priorities described in paragraph (3) of section 403(a): and
- "(4) the reduction since the previous report in the inventory referred to in section 403(c)."
- (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in the first section of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to title IV the following:
- "Sec. 416. Abandoned mine land economic revitalization"

#### SEC. 3. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMEND-MENTS.

The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation  $\operatorname{Act}$  of 1977 is amended—

- (1) in section 401(c) (30 U.S.C. 1231(c)), by striking "and" after the semicolon at the end of paragraph (10), by redesignating paragraph (11) as paragraph (12), and by inserting after paragraph (10) the following:
  - "(11) to implement section 416; and";
- (2) in section 401(d)(3) (30 U.S.C. 1231(d)(3)), by striking "subsection (f)" and inserting "subsection (f) and section 416(a)";
- (3) in section 402(g) (30 U.S.C. 1232(g))-
- (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting "and section 416" after "subsection (h)"; and
- (B) by adding at the end of paragraph (3) the following:
- "(F) For the purpose of section 416(d)(2)(A)."; and
- (4) in section 403(c) (30 U.S.C. 1233(c)), by inserting after the second sentence the following: "As practicable, States and Indian tribes shall offer such amendments based on the use of remote sensing, global positioning systems, and other advanced technologies.".

#### SEC. 4. MINIMUM STATE PAYMENTS.

Section 402(g)(8)(A) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1232(g)(8)) is amended by striking "\$3,000,000" and inserting "\$5,000,000".

#### SEC. 5. GAO STUDY OF USE OF FUNDS.

Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall study and report to the Congress on uses of funds authorized by this Act, including regarding—

- (1) the solvency of the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund; and
- (2) the impact of such use on payments and transfers under the Surface Mining Control

and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201)

- (A) States for which a certification has been made under section 411 of such Act (30 U.S.C. 1241);
- (B) States for which such a certification has not been made; and
- $\left( C\right)$  transfers to United Mine Workers of America Combined Benefit Fund.

## SEC. 6. ABANDONED MINE LAND RECLAMATION AND RESTORATION INITIATIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 145 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

## "\$ 14510. Abandoned mine land reclamation and restoration initiative

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Appalachian Regional Commission may provide technical assistance, make grants, enter into contracts, or otherwise provide amounts to individuals or entities in the Appalachian region for projects and activities on lands, or on or in waters, that have been reclaimed or restored with amounts provided under title IV of the Surface Mining Control or Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1231 et seq.) or that are eligible for such reclamation or restoration.

"(b) LIMITATION ON AVAILABLE AMOUNTS.—Of the cost of any activity eligible for a grant under this section—

"(1) not more than 50 percent may be provided from amounts appropriated to carry out this section; and

"(2) notwithstanding paragraph (1)-

"(A) in the case of a project to be carried out in a county for which a distressed county designation is in effect under section 14526, not more than 80 percent may be provided from amounts appropriated to carry out this section; and

"(B) in the case of a project to be carried out in a county for which an at-risk designation is in effect under section 14526, not more than 70 percent may be provided from amounts appropriated to carry out this section.

"(c) Sources of Assistance.—Subject to subsection (b), a grant provided under this section may be provided from amounts made available to carry out this section in combination with amounts made available—

"(1) under any other Federal program; or

"(2) from any other source.

"(d) FEDERAL SHARE.—Notwithstanding any provision of law limiting the Federal share under any other Federal program, amounts made available to carry out this section may be used to increase that Federal share, as the Appalachian Regional Commission determines to be appropriate."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 145 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 14509 the following:

"14510. Abandoned mine land reclamation and restoration initiative.".

#### SEC. 7. HEADQUARTERS OF APPALACHIAN RE-GIONAL COMMISSION.

(a) FINDING.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Delta Regional Commission, the Denali Commission, and the Northern Border Regional Commission are each headquartered in their respective region; and

(2) the headquarters of the Appalachian Regional Commission should be relocated from the District of Columbia to a more affordable location in the Appalachian Region.

(b) LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 14301 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(g) Headquarters.—The headquarters of the Commission shall be located in the Appalachian Region.".

(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Federal Cochairman of the Appalachian Regional Commis-

sion shall take such actions as may be necessary to carry out the amendment made by paragraph (1).

By Mr. KAINE:

S. 730. A bill to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of certain hydroelectric projects; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, today I am introducing a bipartisan, non-controversial, technical provision pertaining to two proposed hydroelectric projects at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dams in Virginia.

This bill would give the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, FERC, authority to extend commence-construction deadlines for the 3.7 MW project at Gathright Dam, FERC Project No. 12737, and the 1.8 MW project at Flannagan Dam, FERC Project No. 12740. The timelines for these projects have been set back due to challenges with securing Army Corps permits. FERC does not oppose this legislation, as the requested extensions are still within the overall 10-year window for extension of licensing deadlines. There is no known local opposition.

This provision was passed by the Senate last year as part of the Energy Policy Modernization Act, S. 2012. It was also introduced in the House by Representative Morgan Griffith and passed the full House separately. I am pleased to reintroduce the bill again today and hope the Energy & Natural Resources Committee and the full Senate will consider it soon.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 731. A bill to establish the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

 $\operatorname{Mrs.}$  FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I speak on behalf of myself and Senator HARRIS to reintroduce legislation to establish the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area, California's first National Heritage Area. I am very pleased to work with Senator HARRIS, Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI, and our colleagues in the State on this much needed legislation. Our legislation will establish a new national heritage area in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to promote environmental stewardship, heritage conservation, and economic development across five delta counties.

The Delta Protection Commission will manage the heritage area in accordance with California law and in partnership with delta communities. The management planning process provided by this legislation will be open to the public and collaborative. Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments, private property owners, and all stakeholders will have a voice in the management planning for the heritage area.

The goal is to conserve and protect the delta, its communities, its natural resources, and its rich history. In short, this legislation does not affect water rights or water contracts, nor does it is impose any additional responsibilities on local governments or private landowners. Instead, this legislation authorizes federal assistance to support local projects as part of an inclusive process required by State law.

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is the largest estuary in the Western United States and perhaps the most productive and ecologically important watershed in North America. This extensive inland delta is a natural marvel and national treasure that must be protected. The delta offers recreational opportunities enjoyed by millions of Californians and out-of-State visitors alike, who come each year for boating, fishing, hunting, and sightseeing.

The delta provides critical habitat for more than 750 wildlife species, including sandhill cranes and other migratory birds along the Pacific Flyway. It also provides habitat for iconic native fish like the chinook salmon, some as large as 60 pounds, which return each year to travel through the delta to spawn in tributaries upstream.

These same waterways provide freshwater to millions of California households and irrigated farmland south of the delta and elsewhere in the State.

Before being converted for farmland starting in the 19th century, the delta flooded regularly following the spring-time snowmelt and once supported the continent's largest Native American communities.

Later, the delta served as the gateway for the California Gold Rush, after which Chinese immigrant workers built hundreds of miles of levees to make the delta's rich peat soils available for farming and to control flooding.

Japanese, Chinese, Italian, German, Portuguese, Dutch, Greek, South Asian, and other immigrants began the area's farming legacy and established proud communities that continue today.

Over the years, the vibrant "river culture" endemic to delta communities has attracted the attention of celebrated authors from Mark Twain and Jack London to Joan Didion.

A national heritage area designation would help to preserve this uniquely American story by providing supportive local governments across the delta with a needed management framework, technical assistance, and modest Federal funding.

Today, the delta faces crisis due to proliferate invasive species, urban and agricultural runoff, wastewater overloads, channelization, dredging, formidable water exports, and other stressors.

Many delta islands are now 10 to 20 feet below sea level due to subsidence, and the present levee system is inadequate in providing reliable flood protection for historic communities, agricultural enterprises, and infrastructure. Alarmingly, many existing levees were simply not engineered to withstand earthquakes. Should levees fail,

a rush of saltwater into the interior delta would damage this already fragile ecosystem, disrupt drinking water supplies, flood agricultural land, inundate towns, and damage roads, powerlines, and water infrastructure.

Establishing the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area will secure much needed Federal resources for delta communities. Our legislation recognizes the delta as a working landscape central to California life and seeks to further local projects already underway that promote environmental stewardship, heritage conservation, community revitalization, and economic development throughout the delta.

This legislation also seeks to fulfill the broadly supported 2009 California State law that called for a heritage area designation for the delta and the Delta Protection Commission's own feasibility report in 2012.

Our legislation is a small part of the commitment the Federal Government must make to the California delta. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues at every level of government to restore the delta and its native species, upgrade California's water supply, safeguard against flood risk, improve water quality, and preserve delta communities' rich heritage and continued vibrancy.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 98—DESIGNATING THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL 2017 AS "NATIONAL ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK"

Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. Markey, Mr. Isakson, Mr. Daines, Mr. Durbin, Mrs. Feinstein, Ms. Warren, Mr. Merkley, and Mr. Leahy) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### S. RES. 98

Whereas dangerous asbestos fibers are invisible and cannot be smelled or tasted;

Whereas the inhalation of airborne asbestos fibers can cause significant damage;

Whereas asbestos fibers can cause cancer (such as mesothelioma), asbestosis, and other health problems;

Whereas symptoms of asbestos-related diseases can take between 10 and 50 years to present themselves;

Whereas the projected life expectancy for an individual diagnosed with mesothelioma is between 6 and 24 months;

Whereas generally, little is known about late-stage treatment of asbestos-related diseases, and there is no cure for asbestos-related diseases;

Whereas early detection of asbestos-related diseases may give some patients increased treatment options and might improve the prognoses of those patients;

Whereas the United States has substantially reduced the consumption of asbestos in the United States, yet the United States continues to consume tons of the fibrous mineral each year for use in certain products throughout the United States;

Whereas asbestos-related diseases have killed thousands of people in the United States;

Whereas while exposure to asbestos continues, safety and prevention of asbestos exposure has significantly reduced the incidence of asbestos-related diseases and can further reduce the incidence of asbestos-related diseases:

Whereas thousands of workers in the United States face significant asbestos exposure, which has been a cause of occupational cancer;

Whereas thousands of people in the United States die from asbestos-related diseases every year;

Whereas a significant percentage of all asbestos-related disease victims were exposed to asbestos on naval ships and in shipyards;

Whereas asbestos was used in the construction of a significant number of office buildings and public facilities built before 1975;

Whereas people in the small community of Libby, Montana, suffer from asbestos-related diseases, including mesothelioma, at a significantly higher rate than people in the United States as a whole; and

Whereas the designation of a "National Asbestos Awareness Week" will raise public awareness about the prevalence of asbestos-related diseases and the dangers of asbestos exposure: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate-

(1) designates the first week of April 2017 as "National Asbestos Awareness Week":

(2) urges the Surgeon General of the United States to warn and educate people about the public health issue of asbestos exposure, which may be hazardous to their health; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Office of the Surgeon General.

SENATE RESOLUTION 99—RECOGNIZING THE 11 AFRICAN-AMERICAN SOLDIERS OF THE 333RD FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION WHO WERE MASSACRED IN WERETH, BELGIUM, DURING THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE IN DECEMBER 1944

Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. COTTON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

#### S. RES. 99

Whereas, in December 1944, during the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium, soldiers of the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion, an African-American unit of the Army, were operating in support of the 106th Infantry Division when the 106th Infantry Division and the soldiers from the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion were overrun:

Whereas, months after the Battle of the Bulge, the frozen bodies of 11 soldiers from the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion were found near the Belgian hamlet of Wereth;

Whereas the bodies of the 11 soldiers were—

(1) identified as James Stewart of West Virginia, Due Turner of Arkansas, Curtis Adams of South Carolina, Mager Bradley of Mississippi, George Davis, Jr. of Alabama, Thomas Forte of Mississippi, Robert Green of Georgia, James Leatherwood of Mississippi, Nathaniel Moss of Texas, George Motten of Texas, and William Pritchett of Alabama.

(2) examined by Army Medical Corps officials; and

(3) found to have been stabbed, shot, and struck by blunt force;

Whereas the massacre of the 11 African-American soldiers of the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion in Wereth remains unknown to the vast majority of the people of the United States; Whereas, in 2004, a permanent monument in Wereth was dedicated to the 11 African-American soldiers of the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion who lost their lives in Wereth during the Battle of the Bulge in the effort to defeat fascism and defend freedom; and

Whereas the 11 patriots have become known as the "Wereth 11": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate, on behalf of the United States, recognizes the dedicated service and ultimate sacrifice of the 11 African-American soldiers of the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion who were massacred in Wereth, Belgium, during the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944.

SENATE RESOLUTION 100—CONDEMNING ILLEGAL RUSSIAN AGGRESSION IN UKRAINE ON THE THREE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANNEXATION OF CRIMEA

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. McCAIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COONS, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. JOHNSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

#### S. RES. 100

Whereas the illegal Russian military occupation of the Crimea region of Ukraine is an affront to international norms, an unprovoked aggression, and a threat to regional stability;

Whereas Russian President Vladimir V. Putin has a history of regional aggression, including the Russian invasion of the South Ossetia and Abkhazia regions of the Georgia in 2008 and intervention in favor of the breakaway region of Transnistria in Moldova in 1991-1992:

Whereas Article II of the Charter of the United Nations states that "all members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state";

Whereas, in 1994, the United States, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and Ukraine signed the Budapest Memorandum, in which all parties pledged to respect and uphold Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity in exchange for Ukraine voluntarily giving up the world's third-largest nuclear arsenal, which it inherited following the collapse of the Soviet Union:

Whereas a failure of the United States to uphold the terms of the Budapest Memorandum would have significant consequences for the credibility of United States guarantees related to nuclear nonproliferation and undermine America's commitment to the principle of the inviolability of national borders:

Whereas an association agreement between Ukraine and the European Union was signed in 2014, a move which will strengthen ties with Europe and which President Poroshenko described as Ukraine's "most important day" since it secured its independence in 1991;

Whereas, on February 28, 2014, Russian forces in unmarked uniforms occupied strategic civil and military infrastructure in Crimea and provided support to pro-Russian militias and activists as part of a coordinated strategy to seize control of Crimea and create the illusion of an organic, local rebellion against oppressive Ukrainian authorities;

Whereas, on March 18, 2014, following a fraudulent public referendum that was boy-cotted by most Crimean Tatars and Ukrainians and conducted under the shadow of Russian military forces, President Putin signed a treaty annexing Ukraine's Crimea region, which was immediately met with condemnation by the United States and the international community;

Whereas, on July 17, 2014, Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 was shot down near the village of Grabove over rebel-held territory, killing the nearly 300 people onboard, an attack for which the Dutch Safety Board concluded that the Russian-backed separatists were responsible:

Whereas the Government of Ukraine and Russian-backed rebels agreed to a now-failed cease-fire ('Minsk I') on September 5, 2014, which called for the withdrawal of "illegal armed groups as well as militants and mercenaries from the territory of Ukraine";

Whereas a Memorandum was signed by parties to Minsk I on September 19, 2014, outlining their understanding of and obligations to the agreement;

Whereas the fragile cease-fire established by the Minsk I agreement deteriorated following heavy fighting in the Donetsk region, which included operations by Russian-led separatists and regular Russian forces:

Whereas the Minsk II Agreement signed on February 12, 2015, by the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Germany, and France, included the withdrawal of all foreign armed groups, weapons, and mercenaries;

Whereas, on February 25, 2015, General Philip Breedlove, NATO Supreme Allied Commander, said that the state of affairs in Ukraine is "getting worse every day" and the Russian Federation has no intention of retreating from Ukraine until its "objectives are accomplished";

Whereas Russian-backed separatists continue to shell parts of Ukraine and separatists have executed Ukrainian servicemembers, both in direct violation of the negotiated cease-fire:

Whereas aggression by Russian-led separatist forces in Avdiivka in early February 2017 sparked the worst fighting since 2015 and resulted in significant damage to civilian infrastructure and the displacement of thousands of civilians:

Whereas, despite President Poroshenko's statement that Crimea is still Ukraine, and in the face of Resolution 68/262 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on March 27, 2014, which reiterated the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and stated that the referendum held on March 16, 2014, had "no validity [and] cannot form the basis for any alteration of the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea or of the city of Sevastopol," the Government of the Russian Federation continues to refer to Crimea as a "region of the Russian Federation," declaring that "of course the subject of our region is not up for discussion";

Whereas the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 71/205, which condemned the "abuses, measures and practices of discrimination against the residents of the temporarily occupied Crimea, including Crimean Tatars, as well as Ukrainians and persons belonging to other ethnic and religious groups, by the Russian occupation authorities".

Whereas, during a hearing held by the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate on March 10, 2015, former United States Ambassador to Ukraine John E. Herbst cautioned that President Putin is attempting to "overturn the post-Cold War order established in Europe and Eurasia";

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has previously cut off natural gas to Ukraine as a bargaining chip; Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has gone to great lengths to hide evidence of its military support, including deploying mobile crematoriums to dispose of the bodies of servicemembers and classifying the deaths of its servicemembers during peacetime a state secret;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation is directly arming, training, supplying, and commanding separatist forces in eastern Ukraine, and Russian military personnel maintain a regular presence inside the territory of Ukraine;

Whereas Russia vetoed United Nations Security Council Resolution 2015/562, which would have established an international tribunal to prosecute those responsible for the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17;

Whereas OSCE vehicles have been attacked in an attempt to intimidate Special Monitoring Mission (SSM) personnel, with the deputy head of mission Alexander Hug noting the attacks seemed to be "aimed at stopping the OSCE from reporting what is going on [in Donetsk]";

Whereas Ukraine's National Security Council outlined a new military doctrine in September 2015 that declared Ukraine's intention to achieve the criteria for joining NATO;

Whereas Ukrainian leaders, including President Petro Poroshenko, have stated the Government of Ukraine's desire to pursue closer cooperation with NATO with the goal of potentially joining NATO in the future, with Rada Speaker Andriy Parubiy stating in June 2016 that he is "convinced that for Ukraine, at the time of Russian aggression, NATO membership is the strategic direction of our development";

Whereas the United Nations has reported that, since the beginning of the conflict, almost 10,000 people have been killed, including more than 2,000 civilians;

Whereas the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) reports that nearly 600,000 children living in eastern Ukraine have been deeply affected by the conflict and that 1,000,000 children in Ukraine are in "urgent need" of humanitarian assistance, and the European Union reports that a total of 3,800,000 people are in need of humanitarian assistance;

Whereas the United Nations Working Group on Mercenaries in March 2016 raised "deep concern" about the conflict in Ukraine and called on Ukraine to "ensure accountability for human rights violations committed by foreign armed actors";

Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights reports several instances of pro-unity supporters and Crimean Tatar activists being abducted or "found dead in circumstances resembling a summary execution" alleged to be committed by "the de facto authorities of Crimea, or with their authorization, support or acquiescence";

Whereas journalists have come under attack or arrest for speaking out against Russian aggression, such as Pavel G. Sheremet, who was killed by a car bomb in July 2016, and Mykola Semena, a reporter for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty arrested in Crimea and currently on trial for writing that Crimea was part of Ukraine;

Whereas NATO pledged, during the July 2016 NATO summit in Warsaw, to provide additional training and technical support to the Ukrainian military and re-endorsed a Comprehensive Assistance Package that will ensure the Government of Ukraine receives further advisory support, enhanced defense capabilities, and military training;

Whereas the United States Government has committed over \$600,000,000 in security assistance to Ukraine since 2014;

Whereas Congress has authorized the provision of defensive lethal assistance to Ukraine in the Ukraine Freedom Support Act (Public Law 113-272), the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114-92), and the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328);

Whereas, in 2014, President Barack Obama issued Executive Orders 13660, 13661, 13662, and 13685, which imposed sanctions blocking property of certain persons and prohibiting transactions with respect to the Crimea Region of Ukraine as a result of Russia's illegal annexation and military aggression in Ukraine;

Whereas NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg stated on November 21, 2016, that NATO "will never recognize the illegal annexation of Crimea, and [NATO] continue[s] supporting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine";

Whereas, on February 3, 2017, United States Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley stated, "Crimea is a part of Ukraine. Our Crimea-related sanctions will remain in place until Russia returns control over the peninsula to Ukraine.";

Whereas, on February 16, 2017, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson stated, "As we search for new common ground we expect Russia to honor its commitment to the Minsk agreements and work to de-escalate violence in Ukraine.":

Whereas, on March 13, 2017, the European Union extended sanctions against Russian individuals and entities imposed because of the annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation;

Whereas United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres on February 21, 2017, stated that the United Nations "remains committed to supporting the peaceful resolution of the conflict in a manner that fully upholds the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence of Ukraine";

Whereas President Putin has made alarming claims about his views on Russian territoriality, stating that Russia's border "doesn't end anywhere," and has since announced that he "[does not] regret anything" about annexing Crimea; and

Whereas Ukraine celebrated its 25th year of independence on August 24, 2016: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate-

(1) condemns the Government of the Russian Federation's illegal, unprovoked military occupation of the Crimea region of Ukraine and continued aggression in eastern Ukraine, and reiterates that it is the policy of the United States not to recognize the de jure or de facto sovereignty of the Russian Federation over Crimea or any other seized area in Ukraine, its airspace, or its territorial waters:

(2) supports the vigorous enforcement of sanctions and opposes the lifting of sanctions as long as Russia continues its military aggression in Ukraine in violation of the Minsk II Agreement;

(3) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to immediately end its support for the separatists in eastern Ukraine, allow Ukraine to regain control of its internationally recognized borders, and withdraw its military presence in eastern Ukraine, including Crimea:

(4) declares that the United States Government must never recognize the illegal annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation;

(5) urges the President of the United States, in coordination with United States allies, to stand by Ukraine, condemn continued Russian aggression, and use all possible tools to combat Russian belligerence, including increased economic sanctions, defensive

lethal assistance, and democracy and humanitarian assistance, as authorized by the Ukraine Freedom Support Act, the Fiscal Year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act, and the Fiscal Year 2017 National Defense Authorization Act;

(6) urges the President of the United States to continue United States support for the Ukrainian economy and civil society, including continued support by international financial institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund;

(7) condemns efforts by the Government of the Russian Federation to intimidate and coerce nations in Eastern Europe from strengthening their ties with NATO and the European Union:

(8) supports efforts by the United States Government and United States allies to strengthen the energy sector in Ukraine in order to reduce Ukraine's dependence on natural gas imported from the Russian Federation:

(9) acknowledges the Government of Ukraine for its commitment to reform and encourages it to continue implementation of key reforms, including judicial reform, greater parliamentary oversight, further implementation of anti-corruption initiatives, including prosecutions and convictions of major figures involved in corruption schemes, budget and procurement transparency and accountability across government, civilian control of the military, and improved end-use monitoring and sustainment plans for United States security assistance items:

(10) urges the President of the United States not to agree to any final settlement of the conflict in Ukraine without the consent of the Government of Ukraine:

(11) pledges continued support for all democratic allies and partners of the United States facing increased Russian aggression;

(12) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to the Budapest Memorandum on security assurances:

(13) reiterates the obligation of all nations under the United Nations Charter to respect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of other nations:

(14) encourages United States allies in Europe to continue their coordinated efforts to counter Russian aggression in the region, including economic sanctions, increased defense spending, and greater action against Russian disinformation and propaganda in order to make clear that Russian efforts will not go unchecked;

(15) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to provide greater access to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's (OSCE) Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) in order to ensure credible international monitoring of compliance with the Minsk agreement; and

(16) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to engage seriously in dialogue with the Government of Ukraine—in coordination with key international partners—in order to come to an agreement that respects Ukraine's sovereignty, ensures regional stability, and puts both nations on the path towards a permanent ceasefire.

## AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 193. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to Treaty Doc. 114–12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro.

SA 194. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 193 proposed by Mr. McConnell to Treaty Doc. 114–12, supra.

\$A 195. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him

to Treaty Doc. 114–12, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 196. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 195 submitted by Mr. McCon-Nell to Treaty Doc. 114-12, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 197. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution of ratification for Treaty Doc. 114–12, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 198. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 197 submitted by Mr. McConNELL to the resolution of ratification for Treaty Doc. 114-12, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 199. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to Treaty Doc. 114–12, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 200. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to Treaty Doc. 114-12, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 201. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to Treaty Doc. 114-12, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 202. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution of ratification for Treaty Doc. 114-12, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 203. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution of ratification for Treaty Doc. 114-12, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 193.** Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to Treaty Doc. 114–12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro; as follows:

At the end add the following:

"This Treaty shall be effective 1 day after ratification."

SA 194. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 193 proposed by Mr. McConnell to Treaty Doc. 114–12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro; as follows:

Strike "1 day" and insert "2 days".

SA 195. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to Treaty Doc. 114–12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end add the following:

"This Treaty shall be effective 3 days after ratification."

SA 196. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 195 submitted by Mr. McConnell to Treaty Doc. 114–12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike "3 days" and insert "4 days".

**SA 197.** Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution of ratification for Treaty Doc. 114–12, Protocol to the

North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end add the following:

"This resolution shall be effective 5 days after ratification."

SA 198. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 197 submitted by Mr. McConnell to the resolution of ratification for Treaty Doc. 114–12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike "5" and insert "6".

SA 199. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to Treaty Doc. 114–12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of Article I of the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro, add the following: "The Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro shall not obligate the United States Armed Forces to hostilities in accordance with Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 unless the United States Congress passes a declaration of war pursuant to article I, section 8, clause 11 of the United States Constitution."

SA 200. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to Treaty Doc. 114-12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of Article I of the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro, add the following: "The Protocol is dependent on Montenegro meeting its commitment that defense expenditure is two percent of Montenegro's gross domestic product.".

SA 201. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to Treaty Doc. 114–12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of Article I of the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro, add the following: "The Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro is dependent on each member of NATO and Montenegro meeting its commitment that defense expenditure is two percent of its gross domestic product."

SA 202. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution of ratification for Treaty Doc. 114–12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of paragraph (1) of section 3, add the following:

(C) The inclusion of Montenegro in NATO will contribute materially to the territorial defense of the United States.

SA 203. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution of ratification for Treaty Doc. 114-12. Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 2, add the following: (8) FUTURE SENATE CONSIDERATION OF FU-TURE NATO EXPANSION.—The Senate declares that any future initiative to expand NATO should be thoroughly debated and considered from inception, with the highest priority given to evaluating the benefits and risks of such an expansion to the security of the American people and the safety of members of the United States Armed Forces.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have one request for a committee to meet during today's session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

#### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on March 27, 2017, at 12 p.m., in SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of Calendar Nos. 25 through 30; that the nominations be confirmed; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

#### IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

#### To be major general

Brig. Gen. Tony D. Bauernfeind Brig. Gen. William T. Cooley Brig. Gen. Stephen L. Davis Brig. Gen. Patrick J. Doherty Brig. Gen. James A. Jacobson Brig. Gen. David A. Krumm Brig. Gen. Jeffrey A. Kruse Brig. Gen. Michael A. Minihan Brig. Gen. Shaun Q. Morris

Brig. Gen. Thomas E. Murphy Brig. Gen. David S. Nahom

Brig. Gen. Stephen W. Oliver, Jr.

Brig. Gen. John M. Pletcher

Brig. Gen. Scott L. Pleus

Brig. Gen. John T. Rauch, Jr.

Brig. Gen. Brian S. Robinson Brig. Gen. Ricky N. Rupp

Brig. Gen. Dirk D. Smith

Brig. Gen. Kirk W. Smith

Brig. Gen. Paul W. Tibbets, IV

Brig. Gen. Mark E. Weatherington

Brig. Gen. Andrew J. Toth

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section

#### To be brigadier general

Col. Dagvin R. M. Anderson

Col. Jason R. Armagost

Col. Craig R. Baker

Col. Gentry W. Boswell

Col. Richard H. Boutwell

Col. Ryan L. Britton

Col. Brian R. Bruckbauer

Col. Lance R. Bunch

Col. Todd D. Canterbury

Col. Case A. Cunningham Col. Evan C. Dertien

Col. Michael L. Downs

Col. Troy E. Dunn

Col. Derek C. France

Col. David M. Gaedecke

Col. Philip A. Garrant

Col. Anthony W. Genatempo

Col. Kristin E. Goodwin

Col. Christopher J. Ireland

Col. David R. Iverson

Col. Joel D. Jackson

Col. Ronald E. Jolly, Sr. Col. Michael G. Koscheski

Col. David J. Kumashiro

Col. John D. Lamontagne

Col. Leah G. Lauderback

Col. Charles B. McDaniel

Col. John C. Millard

Col. Albert G. Miller

Col. John J. Nichols

Col. Robert G. Novotny Col. Lansing R. Pilch

Col. Donna D. Shipton

Col. Jeremy T. Sloane

Col. Phillip A. Stewart

### Col. David H. Tabor

#### IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

#### To be lieutenant general

#### Maj. Gen. Paul A. Ostrowski

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10. U.S.C., section 601:

#### To be lieutenant general

#### Lt. Gen. Sean B. MacFarland

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section

#### To be major general

## Brig. Gen. Francisco A. Espaillat

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 19911.

To be brigadier general

Col. Jeffrey A. Roach

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

#### APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 106-286, appoints the following Member to serve on the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: the Honorable Angus S. King, JR., of Maine.

PROVIDING FOR THE REAPPOINT-MENT OF A CITIZEN REGENT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S.J. Res. 30.

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

The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 30) providing for the reappointment of Steve Case as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 30) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

#### S.J. RES. 30

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in accordance with section 5581 of the Revised Statutes (20 U.S.C. 43), the vacancy on the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, in the class other than Members of Congress, occurring by reason of the expiration of the term of Steve Case of Virginia on April 25, 2017, is filled by the reappointment of the incumbent. The reappointment is for a term of 6 years, beginning on the later of April 26, 2017, or the date of the enactment of this joint resolution.

PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINT-MENT OF A CITIZEN REGENT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S.J. Res. 35.

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

The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 35) providing for the appointment of Michael Govan as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table

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

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 35) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

#### S.J. RES. 35

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in accordance with section 5581 of the Revised Statutes (20 U.S.C. 43), the vacancy of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, in the class other than Members of Congress, occurring by reason of the expiration of the term of Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson of New York on May 5, 2017, is filled by the appointment of Michael Govan of California. The appointment is for a term of 6 years, beginning on May 6, 2017, or the date of the enactment of this joint resolution, whichever occurs later.

PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINT-MENT OF A CITIZEN REGENT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S.J. Res. 36.

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

The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 36) providing for the appointment of Roger W. Ferguson as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 36) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

#### S.J. RES. 36

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in accordance with section 5581 of the Revised Statutes (20 U.S.C. 43), the vacancy of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, in the class other than Members of Congress, occurring by reason of the expiration of the term of Robert P. Kogod of the District of Colum-

bia on May 5, 2017, is filled by the appointment of Roger W. Ferguson of the District of Columbia. The appointment is for a term of 6 years, beginning on May 6, 2017, or the date of the enactment of this joint resolution, whichever occurs later.

## ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2017

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, March 28; 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; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of Executive Calendar No. 1, the Montenegro treaty, postcloture; finally, that all time during leader remarks, morning business, recess, and adjournment of the Senate count postcloture.

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

## ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:24 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, March 28, 2017, at 10 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

#### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WILLIAM FRANCIS HAGERTY IV, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO JAPAN.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SCOTT GOTTLIEB, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF FOOD AND DRUGS, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE ROBERT MCKINNON CALIFF.

#### SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

ALTHEA COETZEE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, VICE DOUGLAS J. KRAMER.

#### IN THE ARMY

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

#### To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. BRYAN P. FENTON

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

#### To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. DARRELL K. WILLIAMS

#### IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

#### To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. DAVID H. LEWIS

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

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. KARL O. THOMAS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

#### To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. MATHIAS W. WINTER

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

#### To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) STEVEN L. PARODE

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

#### To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) JOHN P. POLOWCZYK

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

#### To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) JON A. HILL REAR ADM. (LH) GORDON D. PETERS

#### IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10. U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 716:

#### To be major

RAYMOND C. JONES III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10. U.S.C., SECTION 12203.

#### To be colonel

CHRISTOPHER E. AUSTIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10. U.S. C. SECTION 12203:

#### To be colonel

ROBERT D. HOUGHTELING GEMINI O. MAJKOWSKI ROBIN J. MCCREADY CARL H. SPEARS, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203.

#### To be colonel

LISA ANN BANYASZ MARYJANE CAHILL BARBARA J. MARCHIANDO CONSTANCE S. REVORE STUART D. RHOADES JOANNA D. RODRIGUEZ DAVID S. SANCHEZ JAMES E. SCHAAF JULIE L. WIBLE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

#### $To\ be\ colonel$

LORI J. BETTERS KRISTINA D. FORBES LINDA FLANIGAN LINDBERG LINDA T. RICHO LISA S. SHEAR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

#### To be colonel

JAMES A. CRIDER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

#### To be colonel

JOSE E. BARRERA
VITO JIMMY CARABETTA
LAWSON ASHLEY B. COPLEY
LAURIE C. DAVIGNON
RODNEY A. FRIEND
SAMUEL M. GALVAGNO
AARON BRUCE GREENSPAN
DAVID L. HUANG
JAMES F. HUIET III
KEYAN D. RILEY
SHAWN S. SHRAWNY
HARLAN LUKE SOUTH
ERIC S. STEM
DMITRY TUDER
DAVID H. ZONIES

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

#### To be colonel

KRISTIN L. ADER JON PAUL BURGESS MAREN L. CALVERT
AIMEE M. CANNON
SETH COWELL
RATNA CONTRACTOR GUPTA
PAUL M. HILLMAN
KRISTINE D. KUENZLI
CHRISTINE C. PIPER
MELISSA A. SARAGOSA
TIMOTHY J. TUTTLE
CHRISTOPHER C. VANNATTA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

#### To be colonel

GREGG MICHAEL CAGGIANELLI JOHN M. PAINTER CHRISTOPHER D. WEBB WILLIAM SCOTT WIECHER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

#### $To\ be\ colonel$

PATRICK W. ALBRECHT CHRISTOPHER B. ANDERSON ERIK LAURENTZ AUFDERHEIDE ATHANASIA G. AUSTIN KELLY L. BAILEY FREDERICK EDWARD BERLS, JR. BRIAN J. BEVERIDGE BARDY, DEED BILLMANN BARRY REED BILLMANN CHRISTOPHER J. BLANCHETTE AARON R. BLUM JOHN G. BOJANAC JOHN G. BOJANAC
TODD ALEXANDER BORZYCH
SCOTT E. BRIESE
CASSY J. BURRII.
ADRIAN R. BYERS
AGUSTIN CARRERO
CURT A. CASTILLO
MARSHALL F. CHALVERUS
CHARLES B. CHAPMAN III
SCOTT R. CLARK
CHRISTOPHER D. CODDINGTON
JAMES E. COLLINS II JAMES E. COLLINS II JAMES E. COLLINS II
STEVEN C. COMBS
DAVID R. COOKSEY
BRUCE A. COOLE
CASEY PATRICK COOLEY
TRACY L. COYNE
BARRY H. CRANE
MICHAEL PATRICK CRUFF
DOUGLAS A. DEMARTHEN DOUGLAS A. DEMATTHEW JOHN C. DOBBIN EVE A. DOUGLAS JAMES S. DOYLE
DAVID K. EDWARDS
PATRICK J. EGAN, JR.
MICHAEL B. ELTZ MICHAEL RYAN FARMER JENNIFER A. FITCH ERIKA A. FOSTER LOUIS WILFRED FOURNIER, JR. LOUIS WILFRED FOURNIER, JR SURYA J. FRICKEL LARRY B. GEORGE RANDAL L. GEORGE MICHAEL D. GIEDT MARY KATHRYN HADDAD JOSEPH MATTHEW HAGANS NEIL MATTHEW HEDE JAMES NORRIS HENDRICKSON MARC E. HENRI MARC E. HENRI ROBERT D. HERSLOW PAUL J. HESS III PAUL J. HESS III
ROSADEL D. HOFFMAN
DEBORAH A. HOLINGER
BETH K. HORINE
KELLY ELIZABETH HOSEY
EDWARD T. HUNN
ROBERT E. JACKSON, JR.
ALARIC J. JORGENSEN
DAVID F. KATTLER
SHARIFUL M. KHAN
SHARON K. E. KIBILOSKI
ALEXIS KIMBER
JASON W. KING ALEXIS KIMBER
JASON W. KING
KURT ALAN KOCHENDARFER
KEVIN M. KOENIG
MATTHEW A. KOZMA
BARRY J. LAWLOR
CHRISTOPHER T. LAY
DAVID J. LEHRMAN
CHRISTOPHER L. MANNING
JASON S. MARTIN
BRIAN A. MAY
HEATHER M. MCCUE
BRIAN J. MCCULL BRIAN A. MAY
HEATHER M. MCCUE
BRIAN J. MCCULLAGH
NICK R. MCKENZIE
JACOB C. MCMANUS
PAXTON S. MELLINGER
MICHAEL C. MENTAVLOS
SHIRLEY A. MERCIER
JAMES C. MILLER
JAMES C. MILLER
JAMES C. MILLER
JAMES G. MILLER
WILLIAM C. MONAHAN, JR.
DANIEL D. MOORE
WICHAEL WILLIAM MORRISETT
JENNIFER S. MORRISON
LARA B. MORRISON
HOANG T. NGUYEN
KIMBERLY L. NORLE
KIMBERLY L. NORLE
KIMBERLY L. NORLE
KIMBERLY L. NORLE

ROBERT N. OSBORN
JENNIFER L. PAGE
MICHELLE L. PATTERSON
LILLIAN R. PRINCE
DANIEL E. REECE
TIMOTHY C. REYNOLDS
RANDALL L. ROBERTS
LARA P. ROWLANDS
LESLEY GREGG RUSSELL
MARK A. SARAGOSA
ERIC A. SEIBOLD
EPHOD SHANG
NORMAN B. SHAW, JR.
AMANDA M. SHEETS
JOHN THOMAS SILANCE II
JENA L. SILVA
ADAM P. SIVULKA
KRISTINE B. SMITH
RAYMOND ARCHER SMITH
CRISTINA M. SOARES
JONATHAN M. SONGER
MICHAEL A. SOVITSKY
JULIE ANNE SPEARS
MARK W. STAFFORD
JAIME LEANNE STIELER
KEITH D. SUDDER
DAVID D. SUNDLOV
KEVIN K. SUTTERFIELD
GAVIN D. TADE
STEPHEN NILES TAYLOR
TERRY L. THEM
DON L. THIGPEN II
JANETTE L. THODE
TODD L. TOBERGTE
ERIC W. VONTROTHA
TIMOTHY D. VOSS
THOMAS S. WALTER
ELIZABETH T. WARD
PHILIP O. WARLICK II
PETER M. WELLBACH
REBECCA LYNN WELCH
STACY. WHATON
KETTH ELLIOTT WHITEHOUSE
NATHAN D. YATES
STEPHEN N. YOON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

#### To be major

STEPHEN N. LUKER

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

#### To be major

TYLER J. BANACHOWSKI
PHILLIP C. BARRAS
JASMINE L. BEAUCHAMP
DAVID C. BROCKBANK
HEATHER MARIE BROOKS
KIMBERLY L. BURFORD
JEFFRY A. BURKE
COURTINEY J. BURRILL
MICHAEL A. CALDWELL
STEPHEN M. CEOLLA
DANIEL B. DAHL
TROY M. DECKER
ANDREW W. ELLIS
FRANK J. EMMERT
PATRICK M. GAUS
JOSEPH L. GEDGE
MEGAN JENIFER GRAFF
JAMES A. GRIFFITH
KURTIS G. HAMMACK
GREGORY M. HAMMOND
TYLER K. HAWKINS
JEFFREY D. HEYSE, JR.
ROBERT L. HILTON
BLAKE L. HOEDEBECKE
RICHARD A. HUTCHISON
GEORGE D. HWANG
JOSEPH E. JOHNSON
MELISSA A. KOSSBIEL
NATHAN T. LARSON
KATLIN E. LEE
PAUL T. LEE
GREYSON A. LEFTWICH
CHRISTOPHER C. LOFTIN
MICHAEL J. LUECK
BRITTANY A. MALOVER
CURT G. MARTIN
JEREMY I. MATIS
NATHANIEL S. MINTER
PHUONG M. NGUYEN
MATIS NATHANIEL S. MINTER
PHUONG M. NGUYEN
MATHEN POPP
BRADLY K. RUSSELL
JENNY P. STEVENS
KIMBERLY N. TONG
ROSE H. TRAN
CORY S. PETERSON
MATTHEW POPP
BRADLY K. RUSSELL
JENNY P. STEVENS
KIMBERLY N. TONG
ROSE H. TRAN
EUWATSON
ERIC J. WESTERGARD
BRENT I. WOODMANSE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE  $10, \, \text{U.s.c.}$ , SECTION 624:

To be major

JONI A. ABBOTT DAVID A. ALT HANS J. AMEN HANS J. AMEN JAMIE A. AMINSHARIFI NICOLAS C. APPLETON ALEXANDER C. AUSTIN YOLANDA A. BACKUS AARON J. BALLANTYNE SARAH M. BALLOGA AUGEN BATOU ALEXANDER F. BEDARD PETER BELL
JOSHUA R. BERG
DANIELLE K. BERSABE
RICHARD D. BETZOLD
JENNIFER E. BEVERAGE
JONATHAN S. BINGHAM
DILIGA A. DIWINGHAM PETER BELL JENNIFER E. BEVERAGE
JONATHAN S. BINGHAM
DLISA A. BITTERLY
CATHERINE J. BLASSER
CATHY DAY BOGGS
JEREMY T. BOLIN
LAUREN M. BOSSHARDT
ADAM L. BOURGON
MICHAEL J. BRAZEAU
MATTHEW C. BROWN
MICHAEL J. BRAZEAU
MATTHEW C. BROWN
MICHELLE F. BUEHNER
TIFFANY R. BURCA
RILEY J. BURKE
LESLIE R. CADET
DANIELLE A. CADLE
ROBERT W. CALHOUN
ROSS M. CANUP
STEPHANIE J. CARROLL
NICHOLAS B. CATTANEO
MARK A. CHENEY
KEELY M. CHEVALLIER
DOUG S. CHO
JESSICA S. COLANESE
STEVEN J. COLONNA
JOHN C. COPELAND
CALLIE MARIE COX BAUER
JOSHUA N. CRAGUN
ANDERS J. DAVIDSON CALLIE MARIE COX BA JOSHUA N. CRAGUN ANDERS J. DAVIDSON KARLA T. DAVILA AMANDA L. DEANS SEAN M. DEBUYSERE JAMES P. DEERING III EMILY H. A. DENNEY AMANDA L. DERWAE KELLY, JEAN DEWEY AMANDA L. DERWAE
KELLY JEAN DEWEY
TROY R. DILLON
EDGAR J. DOLLAR
JOSHUA W. DONART
FORTUNE J. EGBULEFU
SHANE T. ELLIS
ISAAC M. ENGHOLM
EBEECCA L. ENGLEBBE ISAAC M. ENGHOLM
REBECCA L. ENGLEBRETSON
ELISHA N. FARNWORTH
ANDREW J. FISHER
EVAN I. FISHER
DANIEL T. FLOOD
STEVEN R. FRANCIS
BRANDI N. FREELON
GEORGE H. FULGHUM
JESSICA RENEE GAMBOA
DAVID S. GARCIA
NICHOLAS J. GARCIA
JONATHAN T. GASTON
CHRISTOPHER L. GAUNDER JONATHAN T. GASTON
CHRISTOPHER L. GAUNDER
DENNIS J. GEROLD
CATHARINE L. GIANI
MARY LIBERTY M. GIBBS
JESSE K. GIFFHORN
JOHN F. GILLIS
WILLIAM G. GONCHAROW
LAND B. GOOMAN. WILLIAM G. GONCHARO
LAN P. GOODMAN
CASSIDY J. GRAHAM
CHRISTINA D. GREEN
JULIE ANN GRIFFITH
LEE R. HAFEN
JEFFREY R. HALL
TRENTON J. HANSEN
BRIAN C. HANSHAW
KALLYN D. HARENCAK
MATTHEW K. HAWKS
ALISON M. HELFRICH
TASHA S. HEILJI ALISON M. HELFRICH
TASHA S. HELLU
DANIELLE M. HERDER
JOEL E. HERNESS
STEPHEN D. HIOE
REMEALLE A. HOW
BENJAMIN HUANG
BRIAN N. HUGHES PAMELA R. HUGHES BETH H. JOHNSON AARON A. JOHNSTON BRITTANY DUNN JORDAN BRITTANY DUNN JORDAN ANDREA LYNN KAELIN DREW S. KAFER KENTON E. KAGY QUINTON J. KEIGLEY ALEXANDER R. KHERADI NATHAN M. KINDER WILLIAM N. KING WIL SON G. KNIGHT II WILLIAM N. KING
WILSON G. KNIGHT II
CRYSTAL V. KONDOWE
MATTHEW T. KOROSCIL
MARIA I. KRAVCHENKO
KYLE D. KUTSCHE
LASHELL KAY LABOUNTY
JOSEPH A. LAROUCHE
DANIEL R. LAVIN
KATENIA M. LAMBENGE W. DANIEL R. LAVIN KATRINA M. LAWRENCE WOLFF JOHN W. LAX THANH THAO T. LE

JENNIFER I. LEGGOE ANTHON J. LEMON BRITTANY L. LENZ CRYSTAL R. LENZ BRANDON S. LERNER CRYSTAL R. LENZ
BRANDON S. LERNER
STEVEN D. LEWIS
LUKE LI
VICTOR D. LOHLA, JR.
NICHOLAS I. LONGSTREET
JOHN A. LOSURDO
MAI N. LUU
THUZAR W. LWIN
LISA M. MANNINA
STEPHANIE I. MATHRE
SHANNON L. MCCARTHY
MEGAN B. MCDONALD
MEGAN S. MCGEARY
DONALD C. MCMILLAN
MATTHEW L. MCROBERTS
LYNETTE M. MENDOZA
KIRK A. MIDDLETON
JAMES D. MIKOLAJCZAK
BRITTANY M. MILLARD HASTING
ALISA A. MILLER
MANISHA K. MILLER
MANISHA K. MILLER
MARCIA E. MIRANDA
JENNIFER L. MITCHELL
DAVID J. MORROW
LINDSAY M. MORROW
SARA M. D. MOSCOW
VIVINA A. NAPIER SARA M. D. MOSCOW VIVINA A. NAPIER PRIYA I. NATH SEAN T. NELSON KHANG T. NGUYEN SUMMER H. NGUYEN SUMMER H. NGUYEN SUMMER H. NGUYEN GREGORY K. NISHIMURA JAIME R. OBSZANSKI KIRK N. ODONNELL JOSEPHINE K. OLSEN JOHN J. OLSHEFSKI GLEN I. OLSON DAVID R. OTTEN SAMUEL C. OWEN CANDACE ROSE V. PACE GARRETT L. PARKER SARA M. D. MOSCOW CANDACE ROSE V. PACE
GARRETT L. PARKER
MICHAEL R. PARKS
SHANE B. PATTERSON
JOHN DAMON PAVLUS
KATHERINE M. PEARSON
JAMES G. PENNINGTON
CHRISTINE J. PERSINGER
TIMOTHY E. PETERSON
TESSICA J. DIL MINGTON JESSICA L. PILKINGTON BENJAMIN F. PLUCKNETTE MILT G. POLL LAUREN CHRISTINE POWELL MILT G. POLL
LAUREN CHRISTINE POWELL
KENNETH H. POWER
JAISAL K. PRAGANI
JOSHUA L. PRINGLE
MATTHEW A. PUDERBAUGH
JEREMY S. RAAB
MATTHEW F. RAINES
ERIK J. RASMUSSEN
BETSY L. REESE
STEPHANIE W. REISER
NATHANIE W. REISER
NATHANIEL J. RENES
ALEKSANDER S. ROBLES
LORENA B. RODRIGUEZ NORTH
CHRISTOPHER J. RODRIGUEZ
JOSHUA R. ROE
PAOLA ANDREA ROSA
JENNIFER E. SALGUERO
CZARINA E. SANCHEZ
REBECCA S. SCHAPIRA
RICARDO A. SEQUEIRA
ANDREW G. SHAHAN
KATHERINE E. SHEDLOCK
JOSHUA L. SHIELDS
DAVID T. SHOOK
MICHAEL SIBEL
ANTHONY P. SIDARI
LAURA THERESE SIDARI
WENDY D. SINGLETON
KRISTEN L. SLAPPEY
MICHAEL T. SMOLKA
MEREDITH E. SOMMERVILLE
TIMOTHY E. SOMMERVILLE
TIMOTHY E. SOMMERVILLE MICHAEL T. SMOLKA
MEREDITH E. SOMMERVILLE
TIMOTHY E. SOMMERVILLE
BRANDON C. SPECHT
TRISTAN M. SPIERLING
CHARLIE N. SRIVILASA
SUZANNE N. STAMMLER
CHRISTOPHER J. STEEL
SADAH N. STEELE
SADAH N. STEELE SARAH N. STEELE JOSHUA C. STEPHENS THERESA I. STOCKINGER BRIDGET R. STRALKA BRIDGET R. STRALKA
JONATHAN S. STRALKA
MAMER C. STULL
DUSTY L. SWENDSON
NICOLE E. TAFURI
MEGHAN K. TAPE
DAVID M. TAYLOR
MEGHAN K. TAYLOR
TREVOR A. THOMPSON
RYAN J. THORDAL
CATHERINE M. TOLVO
PANSY UBEROI
WILLIAM E. VALENCIA PANSY UBEROI
WILLIAM E. VALENCIA
AMANDA M. VICKERS
LUZDIVINA A. VINE
JOHN'T. R. VOGEL
ELISICIA L. VOLTZ
CHRISTOPHER J. WALKER
KATHRYN I. WARD

WHITTNEY A. WARREN MICHAEL A. WEISBRUCH SAMUEL L. WEISS KASEY C. WELCH ANDY R. WELSTEAD ROBERT L. WEITZLER JENNIFER L. WHITMORE MONICA JILL WILKINS ERIN LOGGINS WINKLER TIFFANY C. WINSTON TIFFANY C. WINSTON JAMES WIRTHLIN DANIELLE C. YUEN

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

#### To be lieutenant colonel

To be lieutena:

MICHAEL J. ALFARO
MERRILL L. ALLEY
SHELRETHIA BATTLE SIATITA
AMY ANN CAMPBELL
WONIL W. CHONG
BRIAN M. CLEMENT
BRANDON J. CUMMINS
MICHAEL G. DIFELICE
JUSTIN L. DRAB
ROBERT E. FULLER
BENJAMIN G. HUGHES
EMILY TATE IBARRA
CLAY J. JENSEN, JR.
DANA A. JENSEN, JR.
DANA A. JENSEN
PAUL H. KIM
KIBROM T. MEHARI
AUDRA D. MYERS
TENESHIA S. NELSON HODGES
CHRISTOPHER S. NUTTALL
ZACHARY E. PERRY CHRISTOPHER S. NUTTALL
ZACHARY E. PERRY
JAMES J. RENDA
DAVID F. SERVELLO
RIAN W. SUIHKONEN
TAD C. THOLSTROM
TIBEBU M. TSEGGA
MEGHAN J. VANDERHEIDEN
JOSHUA A. VESS
JAMES A. WEALLEANS
BRYAN M. WILSON
SARA M. WILSON

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

#### To be lieutenant colonel

JESSICA L. ABBOTT JESSICA L. ABBOTT
KARLA E. ADAMS
THOMAS A. ADAMS
SHELLEY L. ALDRICH
DAVID M. ARNER
ERIN S. BARTH
MARC N. BOGGY
CHARLES W. BORDERS III
ADAM W. BOSTICK
ROBERT O. BRADY
JASON A. BROCKER
LAUREN A. BUCK
ERIN C. BURBIS JENNIFER G. CHANG JOSEPH G. COLES NOEL R. COLLS NOEL R. COLLS
DANIEL B. COX
DUSTIN A. CREECH
EMILY M. CULLINEY
GEOFFREY P. DOUGLAS
JOSHUA L. DURHAM
RYAN E. EARNEST
MARY F. FINN
RYAN P. FINNAN
JONATHAN A. FORBES
ROBERT A. FREEMAN
SHANNON GAFFNEY
BRIAN J. GAVITT BRIAN J. GAVITT RYAN C. GOUGH DAVID B. GRAHAM DAVID B. GRAHAM
LAYNE B. GREEN
SCOTT A. HABER
STEFAN C. HAMELIN
JOSHUA A. HAMILTON
DANIEL R. HATCHER
SALLY R. HAYES
ERICA M. HILL
JOSEPIK HOBBS ERICA M. HILL
JOSEPH K. HOBBS
VALERIE C. HOSTETLER
MATTHEW G. HOYT
JOANNA M. JACKSON
FORREST C. JELLISON
JEREMY A. JENSEN
RONALD L. JONES
JON J. JUHASZ
DEL NIDA LEE KELLY JON J. JUHASZ
BELINDA LEE KELLY
ZACKARY J. KENT
HYAEHWAN KIM
RICHARD C. KIPP
JOSEPH M. KUEBKER
WINTON P. D. LASLIE
ARTHUR N. LAWRANCE
AABON D. LEWIS ARTHUR N. LAWRANCE
AARON D. LEWIS
JOHN LICHTENBERGER III
CHRISTOPHER J. LINDSHIELD
GIOVANNI E. LORENZ
JESSICA A. LOTRIDGE
MATTHEW C. MAI
LOU ROSE M. MALAMUG
TOKUNBO J. MATTHEWS
ANDREW K. MATTHES
CARRIE L. MCBEECOOKE
EDWARD T. MCCANN

SEAN C. MCCARTHY SEAN C. MCCARTHY
SCOTT B. MCCUSKER
ROBERT J. MCGILL
MATTHEW J. MCHALE
LUKE R. MICHELS
BETHANY M. MIKLES
JOHN EMMET MILES
JOHN EMMET MILES
MARIBEL MORGAN
BENJAMIN D. MORROW
DAVID A. MOSTELL LED BENJAMIN D. MORKOW
DAVID A. MOSTELLER
KHAYANGA S. NAMASAKA
JAVED M. NASIR
AUSTIN T. NELSON
BRIAN E. NEUBAUER
MARCUS C. NEUFFER
TRAVIS R. NEWBERRY
CLIETON M. NOWELL TRAVIS R. NEWBERR CLIFTON M. NOWELL MANUEL A. NUNEZ MICHAEL S. OERTLY DAVID J. OETTEL JON R. OLSON JON R. OLSON
GEOFFREY J. ORAVEC
ELDON G. PALMER
JEREMY D. PARKER
AASTA R. PEDERSEN
SCOTT B. PHILLIPS
BRIAN J. PICKARD MONICA LYNN PIERCE WYSONG KEVIN P. PIERONI LUKE H. PORSI JOSEPH W. PUGH MICHAEL L. RAWLINS DAVID S. ROBINSON ANDREW J. ROHRER JAIME ROJAS DAVID M. ROSE
ELIZABETH G. SARNOSKI
BRETT E. SCHNEIDER
LATRISE P. SEARSON NORRIS CHRISTOPHER O. SEGURA MUHAMMAD A. SHEIKH STACY KING SLAT DEREK M. SORENSEN JON E. STANDLEY IAN J. STEWART IAN J. STEWART
NATHAN A. SUMNER
JONATHAN A. SUNKIN
RYAN W. SWOPE
COLE R. TAYLOR
CHUONG N. THAI
MICHAEL C. TOMPKINS
CHARLA C. TULLY
STEPHEN E. VARGA
CHUISTINE D. VO STEPHEN E. VARGA
CHRISTINE D. VO
CHRISTOPHER N. VOJTA
LESLIE R. VOJTA
ADAM R. WALKER
LELAND H. WEBB
RAMOTHEA L. WEBSTER
ERIN M. WEEDEN
JASON M. WEST
SUSAN L. WHITEWAY
MATTHEW T. WILDE
MICAH D. WILL
GREGORY J. WILLIAMS
HEATH D. WRIGHT
THE FOLLOWING NAME

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE  $10, \, \text{U.s.c.}$ , SECTION 624:

#### To be colonel

COREY R. ANDERSON RICHARD A. BUCK RICHARD A. BUCK JOHN C. DAVIS JOE W. HOWARD DAVID E. KLINGMAN JERRY L. LEONARD BRIAN G. MIN INAAM A. A. PEDALINO BRIAN W. PENTON ANTHONY PRESICCI TERESA E. REEVES SONG B. RHIM ANDREW J. STOY ANDREW J. STOY

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

#### To be colonel

EDWARD R. ANDERSON III EDWARD R. ANDERSON III
PETER I. ANDERSON
CLAY M. BALDWIN
JOSEPH R. BEARD IV
PATRICK S. BRANNAN
LISA D. BROSTROM
JOHN S. BRUUN
GEORGE J. BUSE
SCOT E. CAMPBELL
WILLIAM H. CANN
JENNIFER C. CHOW
RAYMOND J. CLYDESDALE
ALLISON A. COGAR
CHRISTOPHER A. COOP
DAVID M. CRAWFORD
ERIC P. CRITCHLEY DAVID M. CRAWFORD ERIC P. CRITCHLEY GLENN MICHAEL DONNELLY YASHIKA T. DOOLEY JOHN R. DORSCH JOSEPH J. DUBOSE ROBERT L. ELLER ROBERT L. ELLER ROBERT L. ELLER BRIAN M. FAUX JOHN F. FREILER VERONICA M. GONZALEZ NIRAJ GOVIL

DANIEL D. GRUBER
DERRICK A. HAMAOKA
DAVID A. HARDY
CINDY LOU HARRIS GRAESSLE
JOHN M. HATFIELD
COLLEEN M. KERSGARD
DANIEL L. LAMAR
KERRY P. LATHAM
DOUGLAS A. LEACH
ALARIC C. LEBARON
FORREST D. LITTLEBIRD
MONICA M. LOVASZ
GREGORY J. MALONE
JON KYLE MARTI
DEREK A. MATHIS
COLLEEN M. MCBRATNEY
JASON L. MUSSER
CHRISTOPHER J. NAGY
SEAN P. OBRIEN
WILLIAM T. OBRIEN, SR.
MARIBEL B. ORANTE MANGILOG
VICTOR L. ORTIZ ORTIZ
AMY L. PARKER
ROBERT SARLAY, JR.
ERICH W. SCHROEDER
RICHARD J. SERKOWSKI
CECILIA SESSIONS CARPENTER
LUCAS M. SHELDON
WILLIAM K. SKINNER
MARK A. SLABAUGH
SHAYNE C. STOKES
BRYAN J. UNSELL
CHRISTOPHER S. WALKER
ERIK K. WEITZEL
PATRICK F. WHITNEY
ROBERT S. WALKER
ERIK K. WEITZEL
PATRICK F. WHITNEY
ROBERT B. WOOLLEY
RAMON YAMBO ARIAS

#### IN THE ARMY

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

#### To be lieutenant colonel

SCOTT C. APLING

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

To be colonel

PATRICIA L. GEORGE

#### IN THE NAVY

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

To be captain

SUSAN M. MCGARVEY

#### IN THE ARMY

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

#### To be lieutenant colonel

ADAM J. POINTS

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

#### $To\ be\ lieutenant\ colonel$

#### LARRY G. WORKMAN

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

#### To be lieutenant colonel

ROBERT J. DUNLAP

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

#### To be colonel

WAYNE O. DEHANEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

#### To be colonel

JOHNATHAN T. PARCHEM

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

To be major

JACOB P. ABSALON
MATTHEW ACOSTA
RYAN P. ADAMS
ANTHONY A. AKRAMI
JOHN L. ALBERT
FELIPE ALBINO
JASON D. ALBRECHT
CYLE E. ALDEN
ANDRESS F. ALEGRE
BRIAN E. ALEXANDER
JOSEPH M. ALEXANDER
TREVOR D. ALEXANDER
TREVOR D. ALEXANDER
USEN
JOSHUA D. ALLEXANDER
GUY L. ALLEN
GUY L. ALLEN

CHRISTINE M. ANDERSEN KEVIN T. ANDERSEN THOMAS D. ANDERSEN CAMERON C. ANDERSON TOBIAS J. APPS TIMOTHY E. ARAS PETER L. ARENDT ALEX B. ARMSTRONG DANIEL J. ARNOLD TIMOTHY A. ASHCRAFT MATTHEW W. ASMUS, JR. STEPHEN A. AUSTRIA ORI I. AVILA DIANA J. AXAYMAC CAREY E. BABER SHAUN M. BAILEY CHRISTINE M. ANDERSEN SHAUN M. BAILEY COLIN P. BAIR CHRISTOPHER A. BAKER SCOTT A. BAKER CHRISTOPHER A. BARNETT DEREK D. BARRICK ALLEN J. BARRON ANDREW M. BARTLETT ANDREW M. BARTLETT
NICHOLAS J. BARWIKOWSKI
JONATHAN J. BATT
RYAN A. BAUM
JOSEPH M. BAUMANN
DOUGLAS D. BAZIL
CHRISTOPHER M. BEACH
GARY A. BEAUMONT, JR.
LISA M. BECKER
CHRISTOPHER D. BECKWITH LISA M. BECKER
CHRISTOPHER R. BECKWITH
CHRISTOPHER M. BEHM
DEREK T. BEHNEY
JOSHUA R. BELL JOSHUA R. BELLAMY
JENNIFER M. BELLAMY
JORDAN M. BELLAMY
CURT J. BELOHLAVEK
ROBERT L. BENDER
KELSEY J. BENO
WILLIAM T. BERRY
PETER V. BIER
WALTER J. BINER
BRIAN A. BISHOP
GREGORY T. BLACK
BRYAN J. BLACKBURN
JAMES H. BLACKBURN
JAMES H. BLACKBURN
CHRISTOPHER D. BLANC CHRISTOPHER D. BLANC JEREMY J. BLASCAK AARON W. BOHANNAN MATTHEW T. BOISE MATTHEW T. BOISE KEVIN W. BOLDT JASON A. BOLSINGER ADAM P. BOLTON PAUL A. BORGMEYER JOHN M. BORLAND JAMESON O. BOSCOW MATTHEW C. BOUDRO GRANT J. BOULEY MATTHEW C. BOUDRO
GRANT J. BOULLEY
TONY D. BOWERS
MARK S. BOYCHAK
NICHOLAS A. BOYLE
CHRISTOPHER B. BRADLEY
ROBERT A. BRANCIERI, JR.
CHRISTOPHER M. BRANDT
JOSEPH P. BRESNAHAN
VIRGINIA R. BRINGHURST
GARY L. BROOKS
JOHN P. BROST
DEREK P. BROWN JOHN P. BROST DEREK P. BROWN KYLE T. BROWN PAUL D. BROWNHILL NICHOLAS B. BROWNING TIMOTHY E. BRUCE INGRID F. BRUNING SPENSER H. BRUNING SPENSER H. BRUNING
ANDREW V. BRYANT
DEYTER G. BUCHANAN
BRIAN R. BUCHHOLZ
THOMAS T. BULLER
CALEB J. BURGESS
DANIEL H. BURGESS
MATTHEW W. BURGOON
CHARLES J. BURKARDT
GLENN W. BURKARDT
GLENN W. BURKEY
VINCENT F. BURLAZZI
KYLE V. BURN
REGULLE R. BURRONI KYLE V. BURNS
MARCELLE R. BURRONI
JASON M. BURTON
ELLISEUS J. BUSULEGO
DAVID L. BUTLER
CONRAD R. CABLAY
CHRISTOPHER R. CAIL
ANDREW C. CAIRNS
JEREMY E. CALDWELL
SEAN J. CALLEJASPRINGER
LINDA F. CANDELLARIO
NATHANIEL T. CARTER
SAM H. CASELLA
JEFFERY B. CASHON
GEORGE L. CASS
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ROBERT D. DETIENNE
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LAN J. MCKENZIE SARAH E. MCKAY
LAN J. MCKENZIE
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CLAYTON C. MERKLEY
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ZACHARY L. MORRIS ROBERT W. MORRIS
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JASON R. NORWOOD
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EVAN B. PALMER EVAN B. PALMER
CLIFTON R. PALMORE
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EDWARD J. PARRY
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CONNOR R. SANDERS
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JOSEPH D. SANDERS
JOSE R. SANTIAGO
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MICHAEL J. SHAY
TIMOTHY W. SHEBESTA
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JOSHUA M. SIDER
NIKOLAUS C. SIFERS
HERIBERTO A. SILVA
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MATTHEW R. SIMPSON
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KYLE A. THOMASON
BRANDON M. THOMPSON
KYLE J. THOMPSON
KYLE J. THOMPSON
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NOBERT B. THOMPSON
NOBERT B. THOMPSON
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GLENN R. WALTON
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STEPHEN D. WARDE
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MONTAE L. WHITE
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TREVOR E. WILLIAMS
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MICHAEL S. WILSON
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DERRICK J. ZANTT
JOSEPH C. ZDANIEWICZ
AARON V. ZIKE
D012989
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D013261
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D013290
D013483
D013167
G010445
THE FOLLOWING NAMEE

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

#### To be major

MARK P. ADAMS
EMMANUEL T. ADENIRAN
JOSEPH M. AGIUS
JOSE J. AGOSTOGONZALEZ
ALDO S. AGUIRRE
PAUL M. AITCHISON
ALAYHAM M. ALAWAJ
ADAM R. ALEXANDER
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JACQUELINE M. ALLEN
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MARC J. ALLERDT
ROBERT F. ALSFELDER
NICOLE L. AMSTUTZ
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ERIN L. ANDERSON
MARK T. ANDERSON
MARK T. ANDERSON
MARK T. ANDERSON
WILLIAM A. ATWELL
SAMANTHA AUSTIN
WILLIAM R. AVERA
AUGUSTE S. BADIEL
DAVID I. BAEZ
CHRISTOPHER J. BAHR
ELEANOR C. BALDEWECK
REYNALDO E. BALDOZA
ANTHONY R. BAMBA
RICHARD T. BARKER
ROBERT E. BARNETT
MICHAEL P. BARR, JR.
KYLE D. BARRETT
MARKININA C. BASKIN
TIMOTHY R. BAULER
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RANDY J. BEIGH
HEATHER H. BENJAMIN
MARJANA E. BIDWELL
ANTHONY R. BAULER
JOHN A. C. BAYSE
RANDY J. BECK
MATTHEW J. BEIGH
HEATHER H. BENJAMIN
MARJANA E. BIDWELL
ANTHONY R. BLACKBURN
JOSEPH M. BLEWETT
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JERRY W. ZEVECKE
DANNY Z. ZHU
SHANNON P. ZORN
D004513
D011884 D011884 D012282 D012581 D012736

D012834 D012940 D013008 D013099 D013214 D013219 D013238 D013240 G010267 G010332 G010336 G010352 G010388

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SHAWN A. ADKINS
JOHN D. AITKEN
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ALAN J. ALVIS
PAUL D. AMIS
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DOWAYNE L. ANDERSON
JERRY O. ANDES
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HANNAH AUER JOHNJAMES K. ARTECH HANNAH AUER JACOB Z. BAKER CRAIG M. BANNER JAMES L. BARLOWE NATHAN A. BARR ESTELA M. BARRIOS HOWARD J. BARROW III YANIA BATES YANIA BATES
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GURLEGOMEE D. BURDER MARLE, SENDETT, M.

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DARIEN L. BUSTAMANTE
DARIEN L. BUSTLER
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MBUKOYO O. BUTLER DANIEL A. BUSTAMANTE
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MICHAEL S. MAULDIN
MARYKATHRYN M. MAXHEIMER
MARK R. MAY FAITH F. LOZANO MARY RATHRYN M. MAAHEIME MARK R. MAY JOSHUA L. MCCASLIN AUBREY D. MCCAULEY MICHELLELYNN F. MCDEVITT CURTIS M. MCDONALD TIMOTHY MCGEE JAMAIL R. MCGLONE MICHAEL J. MCGOWAN JAMAIL R. MCGLONE MICHAEL J. MCGOWAN TODD D. MCMILLAN BRYANT L. MCMILLIAN THELMA L. MCQUARLEY BRYANT L. MCMILLIAN
THELMA L. MCQUARLEY
JOSHUA S. MEADOR
ERICK M. MENDOZA
NATALIE L. MENG
KRYSTAL A. MERCHAN
JAMIE D. MICHEL
KEVIN J. MICHEL
KEVIN J. MICHEL
CHRISTOPHER L. MILES
BENJAMIN D. MILLER
CAYATRA C. MILLER
BURTON H. MILNOR, JR.
ROBERT W. MITCHELL II
PAUL L. MOELLER, JR.
CRYSTAL D. MOORE
ARIANNA D. MORELL
ZACKARY H. MOSS
NAKESHA L. MOULTRIE
KATE C. MURRAY
LESIA M. MURRAY
LESIA M. MURRAY
JACQUELINE H. MURRAYBONNO
JEFFREY G. NEAL
ROY J. NEIL JR.
STEPHEN M. NEPPL
JOSHUA J. NEWBY
KEVIN R. NICHOLLS
MICHAELS
KRISTOPHER D. NICHOLS
KRISTOPHER D. NICHOLS
KRISTOPHER D. NICHOLS
KRISTOPHER D. NICHOLS MICHAEL J. NICHOLLS
CHRISTY L. NICHOLS
KRISTOPHER D. NICHOLS
JOHN P. NIKIFORAKIS
BRIAN T. NOBLE
CHRISTOPHER J. NOLL
DANIEL V. NOSSE
ZACHARY A. NOVITSKE
KATHY L. NOWAK
AMANDA K. OBLEY
FRED W. ODUKA
MICHAEL O. OKEOWO
HENRY OKOROAFOR
BENJAMIN J. OLSEN
JOSEPH R. OLSON
SEAN P. OMALLEY
TAMARA J. ONEAL
KIMBERLY M. ORDONEZ
BRIAN J. ORLINO
WILLIAM A. ORTEGAGUERRERO
PEDRO PACHECO
CLINT C. PAJELA
ZACHARY D. PALIKO
APRIL D. PALOMAR
KYE E. PANNEL I. APRIL D. PALOMAR KYE E. PANNELL VICTORIA L. PARRISH KENNETH S. PATTERSON

THOMAS L. PATTERSON THOMAS L. PATTERSON TANYA V. PAYNE CHIQUITIA S. PEARSON DANIEL L. PECHACEK JOSHUA L. PEEPLES ANDREW E. PEKAREK HAROLD PEREAJIMENEZ HAROLD PEREAJIMENEZ ARMANDO PEREZ LINA V. PEREZ MICHAEL G. PESANO LOREN N. PETERSEN CHERQURIA L. PETERSON MATTHEW T. PETERSON MATTHEW T. PETERSON SHERMAN PINCKNEY JEREMY R. PINSON SHERMAN PINGKNEY
JEREMY R. PINSON
TYNIKA E. N. PINTER
JOSEPH W. PITTARD
RYAN M. PLEMMONS
DAVID A. POE
MATTHEW K. PORTER
JUAN C. PRATTS
MONIQUE M. PULLIN
PATRICIA A. PUTNAM
BRANDON A. PYE
KHADINE R. QUASHIE
JEROMY C. RAATZ
CRAIC M. RAINES
JAMES RAINEY III
SEAN C. RALEIGH
JOHN P. READ
SHERLLYN F. REED ANGELA M. REABOLD
JOHN P. READ
SHERILYN F. REED
AARON S. REEDY
WILLIAM J. REINSTATLER
NATHANIEL A. RICE
WAYNE D. RICHEY, JR.
RICHARD J. RICKETTS IV
MARIA E. RINALDI
FREDDY RIOS
VERNELL L. RIXNER
BRIDGET D. ROBSHAW
KERMAN A. RODRIGUEZ
DANIEL J. ROMERO
JOSE C. ROMERO
JOSE C. ROMERO JOSE C. ROMERO CRYSTAL A. ROREBECK CHASITY L. ROSS CHRISTOPHER C. ROYAL CHRISTOPHER C. ROYAL
GARRETT D. RUUD
JOHNNY SAHAGUN
CLEFF M. SALADINO
JUAN C. SALAS
DION R. SAMUEL
MATHEW J. SCALISE
CHRISTOPHER N. SCHKERKE
WILLIAM R. SCHMIDT
MATTHEW R. SCHNELLER
BENJAMIN J. SCHUPPEL
JOHN F. SCHUSTER II
MELISSA S. SCHWARZ
ANDREW J. SEE
JEFFREY R. SEITZ
CHRISTINA C. SHELTON
ADAM T. SHEVOCK
NIYA SHIPP
ERIC W. SHUMPERT
NEAL J. SIVULA
MERCEDES B. SKIDMORE
JESSICA F. SMITH
LEHMAN F. SMITH III
MUSHAWN D. SMITH
ANTHONY M. SOIKA
CHARLES T. SOLAITA
JEFFREY T. SOWECKE
STEVEN M. SPIKER
JAMES P. STAGGS
LLOYD J. STERLING III
LEWIS N. STEVENSON
MICHAEL D. STEWART
KRISTIE M. STUCKENSCHNEIDER
KEITH D. STUTTS
ALICE SYLVESTER
SHAWN S. TAJALLE
DEAN W. TALLANT
RYAN W. TALLANT
RY PEDRO VALDES KURTIS P. VANALLEN JAMIE D. VESTAL RYAN E. VIDAURRI RYAN E. VIDAURRI OMAR VILLAFANE ADAM C. VOGEL PENNY M. VOLINO JOHNATHAN M. WAGNER DARRYL A. WALKER MICAH A. WALKER TYESHA N. WALKER

DAVID A. WALLACE
STEVEN J. WALLACE
STEVEN J. WALLACE
STEVEN J. WALLACE
RYAN A. WARNHOFF
KORNELIYA S. WATERS
MICHAEL J. WATKINS
DARLENE L. WEAVER
VERNON E. WEBB
DAVID A. WEISS
MELONIE A. WEST
MILENA I. WILLIAMS
ROBBIE F. WILSON
RYAN C. WILSON
LASHONDA W. WISE
MELONIE A. WOOD
LATON WISE
MELANIE M. WOLFE
JACOB A. WOOD
LATORAY A. WOOD
MARK A. YORE
CHARLES C. YORK III
SHERITA L. YOUNG
DREW ZABRISKIE
D011714
D012452
D012999
D013032
D013195
D0103242
D013352

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3664:

#### To be major

VANESSA R. ASMUS
GARTH T. BEAVON
PAULA J. BECKER
BRYANT A. BOOHAR
WAYNE T. BRANOM III
KYLE V. BURGAMY
VICTORIA L. CAMIRE
JOSHUA M. CARTER
DAVID M. CLASSEN
CHRISTOPHER CLAUSEN
COURTNEY M. COHEN
JESSICA B. COLSIA
ANDREW J. CORIMSKI
BRETT A. CRAMER
KATE V. DAFOE
TIMOTHY A. DAVIS
KATHERINE L. DEPAUL
BRYN P. DETTIMER
CHRISTOPHER D. DONLIN
COLLIN P. EVANS VANESSA R. ASMUS CHRISTOPHER D. DONLIN COLLIN P. EVANS EDWARD S. FAIELLO III BLAKE A. FELDMAN JAMES M. FLANAGAN MATTHEW A. FREEMAN TODD C. GATELY CHRISTOPHER D. GOREN THOMAS P. GOWEN CHRISTOPHER D. GORE THOMAS P. GOWER SAMUEL W. GRABILL WILLIAM M. GRADY GAVIN G. GRIMM JODIE L. GRIMM JAMIE L. GURTOV MATTHEW W. HAYNES MITCHELL D. HERNIAK STEVEN B. HIGGINS MITCHELL D. HERNIE STEVEN C. HIGGINS PATRICK A. HOLLY HSIENJAN HUANG JOHN F. HUMMEL SIMONE L. JACK MATTHEW M. JONES IAN T. KLINKHAMER CHRISTOPHER J. KOSCHNITZKY TIMOTHY J. KOTSIS JEFFREY D. KYLE ERIK D. LAPIN
DANIEL A. LARSON
VIVIAN M. LEAVENS
BLAKE A. MARTIN
FELIX S. MASON
TIMOTHY J. MATHEWS
TIMOTHY J. MINTER
MATT D. MONTAZZOLI
JESSICA J. MORALES
DANIEL M. MOW
MICHAEL E. MURRAY
JOSEPH G. NOSSE
JUSTIN L. NOTTINGHAN ERIK D. LAPIN MICHAEL E. MURRAY
JOSEPH G. NOSSE
JUSTIN L. NOTTINGHAM
ANTONIO J. PATACA
JAMES L. PAUL
JOHN P. POLICASTRO
CHRISTOPHER B. RICH
JAMES P. ROBINSON
CORY T. SCARPELLA
JOSHUA P. SCHELL
ALIN P. SCHLUETER
PATRICK J. SCUDIERI
JACLYN E. SHEA
DANA M. SHERMAN
JOHN E. SHUTT
JONATHAN C. SIEGLER
PAUL W. SILVER
MATTHEW A. SINOR
CURTIS C. SMITH
KATHERINE M. SPANNAGEL

NEIL C. STAUFFER
KEITH A. STEWART
STEVEN P. SZYMANSKI
DAVID R. TALBOTT
MATTHEW J. TEXTOR
GREGORY A. VETERE
AMANDA L. WALBURN
KRISTOPHER J. WHITTENBERGER
JAMES A. WOODRUFF
RYAN T. YODER

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

#### To be lieutenant colonel

#### MICHAEL C. FLYNN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

#### To be colonel

#### STEVE L. MARTINELLI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S. C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

#### To be colonel

JENNIFER M. BAGER DAVID A. BAKER JEREMY T. BEAUCHAMP DAVID A. BAKER
JEREMY T. BEAUCHAMP
SHERYL A. BEDNO
JASON D. BOTHWELL
LYNDEN P. BOWDEN
DUSTIN L. BOYER
KARL W. BREWER
MILLARD D. BROWN III
JAY R. BUCCI
JESSICA L. BUNIN
CHRISTIAN L. CARLSON
DANIEL W. CARLSON
WESLEY A. CLARKSON
CHRISTOPHER J. COLOMBO
JONATHAN M. DAVISON
LAURA DAWSON
MARK E. DEMICHIEI
MICHAEL S. DEMPSEY
KIMBERLY M. DEVORE
NICOLE R. DOBSON
SEAN N. DOOLEY
MATTHEW N. FANDRE
MELISSA A. FOROUHAR
SEAN J. FORTSON
TRAVIS C. FRAZIER
PANDALL JEPEPEMAN SEAN J. FORTSON
TRAVIS C. FRAZIER
RANDALL FREEMAN
CASEY J. GEANEY
BRANDON J. GOFF
WILLIAM J. GRIEF
MATTHEW E. GRIFFITH
ELIZABETH A. GROSSART
MICHAEL T. HAMILTON
BRIAN A. HEMANN
JAMES R. HEMPEL
KIMBERLY W. HICKEY
KEVIN A. HORDE
MATTHEW T. HUEMAN MATTHEW T. HUEMAN MARC A. HULTQUIST DEREK F. IPSEN CHRISTOPHER G. IVANY LINDA G. JACKSON JEREMY D. JOHNSON ADAM B. KANIS JASON D. KENDELHARDT KENNETH D. KUHN PAUL O. KWON CRAIG S. LABUDA WALTER S. LEITCH GEORGE T. LEONARD STEPHANIE L. LEONG THOMAS R. LOVAS
JASON D. MARQUART
ERICK MARTELL
SCOTT F. MCCLELLAN MARSHALL C. MENDENHALL CHRISTOPHER D. MEYERING MARK W. MEYERMANN JAMES E. MOON ANDREW R. MORGAN PHILIP S. MULLENIX KEVIN M. NAKAMURA KENNETH J. NELSON KENNETH J. NELSON
KARIN L. NICHOLSON
THOMAS E. NOVAK
SCOTT C. ORR
WILLIAM D. PORTER
DAVID L. SAUNDERS
BRADFORD J. SCANLAN
SEAN T. SMITH
JONATHAN R. STABILE
COURTNEY T. TRIPP
EDUARDO M. VIDAL
JACK R. WALTER
PAIGE E. WATERMAN
RONALD S. WELLS
THOMAS M. WERTIN
BRADFORD P. WHITCOMI BRADFORD P. WHITCOMB PAUL W. WHITE EUGENE W. WILSON RAMEY L. WILSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY DENTAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

#### To be colonel

ALFRED C. ANDERSON ELLIOTT BERMUDEZCOLON SO B. CHOI TYRUS N. HATCHER JON D. LIBBESMBIER KENDALL R. MOWER JAY R. OWENS III SCOTT RANKIN JENNIFER V. SABOL ROBERT J. SELDERS, JR. GARY STONE KELLEY TOMSETT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064-

#### To be major

KENNETH AHORRIO KENNETH AHORRIO
RAINA D. ALEJOS
HEATHER R. ALSUPMORTON
BENJAMIN P. ALTHUISIUS
PATRICIA L. ALVAREZ
MONINA C. ANCHETA
DON C. ANDREWS
JAMES A. ARD
GLENTON I. ATWELL
MARY M. AYRES
JOANNA A. BALLEY
TRACEY T. BALDAUF
HEATHER R. BARTON TRACEY T. BALDAUF HEATHER R. BARTON LEE D. BENDICKSON DAVID M. BILANK SUSAN J. BROWN TANISHA L. BRUNS JASON T. BRZUCHALSKI DANIELLE L. BUCHS LAURA L. CACKLEY DANIELLE L. BUCHS
LAURA L. CACKLEY
LATONIA F. CASON
RICHARD T. CETKOWSKI
STACY A. CLEMENTS
KAREN E. COLON
KATHERINE L. CONVERSE
MAURICIA J. DAILEY
ANDREW R. DAVIS
JORY I. DENNY MANDREW R. DAUIS
JOBY L. DENNY
TROY D. DILMAR
DEIDRA R. S. DODD
MATTHEW P. DOELLMAN
KIM S. DORTELUS
SHARON D. DOUGLAS
DAPHNE A. ELLIS
ROBERT A. FABICH, JR.
LESLIE K. FARRIOR
SHINITA L. B. FAVORS
AMANDA R. FERGUSON
ALLISON L. FERRO
GAYLE E. FISHER
YOSEF FUFA
CHRISTYN A. GAA
JOSHUA D. GADD
JORDAN P. GAMMONS
KEITHBARRY L. GARCIA
JESSE M. GOSSETT KEITHBARRY L. GARCIA
JESSE M. GOSSETT
LISABETH P. GROVE
AMY M. HAMMOCK
RENEE T. HART
STEPHANIE S. HAYES
ACIE M. HAYRY
SARAH E. HENSLEY
JONATHAN W. HODGES
LAMARR K. HOWELL
AMY L. JACOBS
CASSANDRA P. JAMES-IVERY
MELISSA M. KALIS MELISSA M. KALIS JOSEPH E. KELLOGG JULES Q. KENNEDY JI Y. KIM
WILHELM A. KOGLER
WENDY M. KRULL
ZACHARY J. KUFAHL
BRITTANY H. KULL
RHONDA K. LEARY
CYNTHIA B. LEE
LINDSAY J. LESKANICH
MEGAN E. LORENZ
BRIAN M. LOWERY
MICHAEL S. MACEACHERN
LAURA C. MARTIN
JEANETIZE E. MARTINEZ ЛГ У. КІМ LAURA C. MARTIN
JEANETTE E. MARTINEZ
KATE M. MCCLOUD
TAYLOR K. MCMURDO
JIMMEDDA L. MILLS
BETTY L. MOORE
BEVERLY D. MOORE
GARY J. MOORE
LAUREN N. NASH
JEFFRY T. NEGARD
TRACY L. OUTLAW
CRAIG L. PAINE
ANDREA M. PAPA
ELIZABETH A. POINDEXTER
RONALDO D. PRUDENTE
TREVOR J. READ TREVOR J. READ EURANA A. RODRIGUEZ ROBINSON RODRIGUEZ TARA J. ROMAN MARISOL ROSA ELIZABETH RUIZ JULIA T. RYAN MARIAM K. SABAS PETER A. SHELLABARGER KARLENE P. SIERRA NEIDRA D. SIMMONS

PAMELA J. SIMONDS
MARILYN SOTO
JUSTIN J. SPEARS
RYAN L. STANFIELD
AMY S. STAUB
INDIA R. STOVER
ANGELA L. STRAKER
EARL M. STUTZMAN
THERESA M. SUGGS
DOUGLAS A. TAYLOR
MARTINA O. TAYLORCAMPBELL
LATONIA R. THOMPSON
ASHLEY D. TORRENCE
DANIEL J. TUNISON
AMY M. UPDIKE
ELIZABETH A. URBANSKI
CHARLES D. WALKER
ROGER WEBB
LAKESHA L. WILLIAMS
PATRICIA L. WILLIAMSON
BETHANY R. WITTNAM
MARC R. WONG
MATTHEW M. WYNNE
LATHASHA L. WYCHBURGESS
YEO C. YOON
FRANCES R. YOUNG
JACQULINE T. YOUNG
KARA J. YOUNG
LUZ E. ZAMBRANO
JUDIZA L. ZELAYA
PAUL W. ZIEGLER III
THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

#### To be major

TOLULOPE O. ADEYEMI BOMA O. AFIESIMAMA AMY A. ALHEIM AMANDA L. ALLEN PAMELA R. ASKEW DEREK J. AUBEL CHRISTOPHER BAGLIVO MICHAEL A. BAKER ARMAND L. BALBONI ARMAND L. BALBONI
SETH D. BALDWIN
MELISSA F. BALTAZAR
PAUL V. BANKSTON
MANUELIA A. G. BAULDRY
CAMILLE I. BETITO
SHUBBIRA BHATTACHARYAJONES
JEFFREY D. BIDDULPH
REBECCA A. C. BLOOD
GREGORY P. BODENSTEINER
STEVEN G. BREWER
JOHN R. BROUSSARD
STERLING O. BROWN
SUMMER M. BROWNELLIS
JARED H. BRYNILDSEN
TREVOR R. BUCKLEY
LUIS G. CALLECARDENAS LUIS G. CALLECARDENAS ROMMEL B. CAMANGEG BERNARDO C. CARBO JAMES C. CAREY JAMES C. CAREY
JOSEPHINE CARPANZANO
KATHERINE A. CARR
VALERIE L. CARSON
EILEEN C. CASSIDY
JOSHUA T. CAUSEY
WILLIAM C. CAVE
CHRISTOPHER S. CHAMLEE
ADAM E. CHAPLES ADAM E. CHARLES MEGAN M. CHAVEZ CHARLES H. CHOI CHARLES H. CHOI
ROBERT E. CHU
NICOLE M. CINTRON
HERBERT W. CLAYBURN
JORDAN M. COBURN
KELLEY C. COLLINS KELLEY C. COLLINS
LOIS A. COLWELL
DANA M. COOK
THOMAS J. COSTEIRA
CHARLES S. COX, JR.
STEPHEN L. CRIMMINS
ADAM B. DAVIES
FREDRICK D. DAVIS
SULENA VADER DEGRALAND SUEHAYDEE DECHAUNY ROBERT B. DIXON CHRISTOPHER W. DRAKE ROBERT B. DIXON
CHRISTOPHER W. DRAKE
MONTY B. EDWARDS
BRADLEY S. ELLIS
JOSE H. ESPINOZA
SHAWN A. FITZGERALD
GREGORY J. FREDERICKS
GARY FREEMAN, JR.
LANCE R. FREEMAN
GABRIEL O. GANDIA, JR.
WILLIAM E. GARRISON
TRAVIS R. GILCHRIEST
BEVERLEY S. GOFFINET
LETICIA GONZALEZ
JASON W. GREEN
JAMES J. GREENE, JR.
AARON S. GRIFFIN
JONATHAN P. HAINES
GLENDA HANNASOANES
RAYMOND W. HANSON
SCOTT M. HAROLD
SIGRID L. HARRISON
KEVIN L. HAYES
KRISTA M. HERNANDEZ
CATHERINE J. HERRENA
EXICK M. HEYGOOD ERICK M. HEYGOOD MARIE A. HOFFMAN EMILY B. HOLCOMB

MARY K. HOURIHAN JAMES H. HSIAU VIOLET L. HURD JENNIFER B. HUSBANDS DONALD D. INGRIM DONALD D. INGRIM
JENNIFER J. JACKIW
GARRION L. JACKSON
GARRETT E. JOHN
JAREE L. JOHNSON
VICTOR M. JOHNSON
VICTOR M. JOHNSON
DANIEL T. JONES
PAMELA D. JORDAN
WALTER N. KAER IV
CHRISTOPHER W. KAHN
BAISHALI KANJILAL
WILLIAM J. KEILJER WILLIAM J. KELLER MONIQUE C. KENNERLY CLARENCE L. KETTERER CLARÈNCE L. KETTERER
SEAN M. KILEY
APRIL M. KIMBLE
DAVID A. KINGERY
KERRI D. KLINGSEIS
LYNDSAY A. KNOBLOCKFAST
BRIAN D. KNOTT
NICKALOUS A. KORBUT
JEFFREY R. KUGELMAN
ERIKA L. LANDERS
RYAN R. LARSON
CHEWANDA E. LATHAN
ESMERALDA L. LINAN
RYAN J. LINDELL
KATHERINE E. LITTLE
TODD E. MANDLEY RYAN J. LINDELL
KATHERINE E. LITTLE
TODD E. MANDLEY
KENNETH R. MARTENS
BRYANT O. MASSENBURG
JESSICA L. MAXIM
SARAH J. MCCREIGHT
STEVEN E. MCDANIEL
BARBARA L. MCGILL
LEE P. MCPHATTER
JOANNE A. MEDINA
WILLIAM J. MENNIS
WILLIAM J. MENNIS
WILLIAM R. MESSICK
LEAH H. MISIALEK
JOSEPH C. MOEN
SAMIRAH A. MOHAMMED
MATTHEW S. MOORE
STEFANIE K. MOORE
CHRISTOPHER E. MORGAN
JACOB B. MORTON
ROBIN A. MULLINS
DANIELLE D. MURRAY
OTTO R. NADAL
ROBERT J. NADEAU
FE M. NALL
JEFFREY C. NASON
KYLE R. NEBELISICK
KEN NGUYEN
TRIET M. NGUYEN
ERIC V. NI
GODFREY K. NKWANTABISA
SHANNON D. NORDEN
JASON P. NORDEN
JASON P. NORDEN SHANNON D. NORDEN JASON P. NORLIEN JOHN A. OKOLO MYONG H. PAK THOMAS J. PATTERSON JOSEPH A. PEABODY JOSHUA A. PERRY SHEA E. PHILLIPS EDWIN A. PIERCE SHEA E. PHILLIPS
EDWIN A. PIERCE
EMANUEL PIERRE
JENNIFER R. POWERS
STEVEN L. QUINN
TOBIN A. RADER
JAMEL M. REESE
JOSEPH M. REMESZGUERRETTE
EDWARD R. ROACH TOYA ROBINSON JOSE H. RODRIGUEZ JASON A. ROGERS INO M. RUIZ INO M. RUIZ
ELIZABETH A. SALL
LATISHA J. SCOTT
RUSSELL E. SCOTT
ELIZABETH A. SEBERO
SEUNG P. SEO
SCOTT E. SERONELLO
SEAN C. SHEPPARD
DONNIEL I SHOPT BONNIE L. SHORT DENA G. SHORT JON R. SHORT DENA G. SHORT
JON R. SHORT
TRAVIS C. SIMMONS
SEAN L. SPENCER
JONATHAN M. SPIKES
BOWMAN J. SPILLANE
SCOTTE E. STANLEY
LEAH M. STEDER
BRYAN H. STEWART
JENNIFER L. STIDLEY
WESLEY N. STOKES
STEPHANIE M. STRESSMAN
EBONY M. STUBBS
BRENDA S. SUMNER
JOANN A. TAALIB
JAMES A. TAYLOR, JR.
MATTHEW D. TAYLOR
BENJAMIN G. TESFAYE
ROBERT C. THORNTON
ANDREY V. TSEPELEV
THOMAS A. TUCKER II
DAVID W. TYSON
ALEJANDRO J. VALENZUELA
KYLE P. VANDINGSTEE
DAVID S. VISE
KELLY J. WALKER
TED P. WALKER
WALTER A. WALSH, JR.

TIMOTHY W. WARNER TERICKA L. WASHINGTON KELSHA D. WEAVER AMANDA R. WEBB STEVEN R. WENTZ STEVEN R. WENTZ
ANNIE D. WHEELER
JOHN D. WILLIAMS
ALVIN C. WILLIAMSON
BETINA M. WILLIE
AUSTIN M. WILLIS
WILLIAM J. WILSON
MICHAEL T. YATES ELLIE J. YOUNG D013595

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SPECIALIST CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

#### To be major

PAUL J. E. AUCHINCLOSS JAMIE D. BELL VANESSA E. BONNER JULIE A. BOWMAN NICOLE H. BROWN PHILIP CASTANEDA
GARY W. CLARKSON
KEITH M. COLLINSWORTH
COLT CRUTCHFIELD ZACH A. DELABASTIDE MICHAEL J. DELAVEGA JASON M. DILLASHAW ZAKIYA B. A. DIXON THOMAS J. DRUMMOND JOHN A. DUNNING KENT E. ELLSWORTH KENT E. ELLSWORTH
GARTH B. EVERS
ELRICO B. FERNANDEZ
ANDREW J. GALDI
DONNA P. GOODSON
TREVOR A. D. GORMAN
LATASHA D. GRAY
TODD J. HEER
MATTHEW S. HELITON
CHRISTIN L. JESSEN
LISA M. JIN
MEGHAN E. JOYCE
CYRLIS H. KARDOUINI MEGHAN E. JOYCE
CYRUS H. KARDOUNI
JOSEPH P. KENNIFF II
ROBERT M. KISTNER
BRIAN R. KREISEL
KIRSTEN E. KROLL
JULIE A. KUJAWA
MICHAEL S. LADUKE
BRYAN C. LEE
RICHARD LEVADA
ROBERT M. LEVESQUE
JAY M. LLOYD
LAKESRIA T. LOGAN JAY M. LLOTD LAKESHIA T. LOGAN JAMES F. LOPATA ADHANA J. MCCARTHY ANDREW MCPHIE ANDREW MOPHIE
ABRAHAM MEDINA, JR.
STEFFEN G. MEILER
RODNEY MENEZES
JASON R. MITCHLER
PAUL E. MOCHMER
THOMAS P. MOLTON II
KATRINA S. MONTI KATRINA S. MONTI
JEAN P. MONTREUIL
JOHN E. MORRISON
JENNIFER F. MULLINS
DALE A. NELSON
MICHAEL W. NOYES
LANCE R. OLDORF
BRIDGET A. OWENS
JEFFREY C. PASCHALL
CHRISTOPHER A. PETERSON
MICHAEL W. PRIEBE
VANESSA J. RAMIREZ
JEFFREY M. SCHMIDT VANESSA J. RAMIREZ
JEFFREY M. SCHMIDT
BRIAN C. SMEDICK
JOSEPH L. STEELLE
ROBERT F. STOKES
TRINITY S. STOREY
PAUL D. STROHL
ELIOT J. THOMASMA
JON A. UMILAUF
ZEBULON L. WILKIN
ROBIN L. WILSON
AMANDA L. WOLFE
YAOYAO ZHU
JUSTIN ZIMMERMAN
BARUCH ZOBRIST BARUCH ZOBRIST D011608

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY VETERINARY CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

#### To be major

RACHEL A. ACCIACCA BRIAN S. ADAMS MICHAEL A. BENCIVENGA EMILY R. BINGHAM RICHARD T. BROOKSBY RICHARD T. BROWN JULIE P. BROWN DANIEL W. CHRISTENSEN ANDREW J. CICCOLINI JONATHAN M. COFFMAN TRICIA F. CULBERTSON MARILYNN J. CULBERTTH JESSICA E. DOWLING

JOANNA E. FISHBACK AMANDA M. HAUCK KATHY K. S. LEBERT CRYSTAL LINDABERRYGONZALEZ MEGHAN E. LOUIS MEGHAN E. LOUIS
MORGAN A. MANDER
ANNA M. MANDER
ANNA M. MANDRA
MONICA L. MARTIN
SABRINA N. MCGRAW
EMILY K. PURSWELL
SEAN R. STOCKWELL
DANIELLE R. TULLOSS
JEFFREY J. ULLMER
LAUREN E. WHITE
THE FOLLOWING NAME
THE FOLLOWING NAME

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

#### To be lieutenant colonel

#### CHRISTOPHER J. BROWN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY AS CHAPLAINS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

#### To be major

DANIEL B. KING TODD E. WAINMAN

#### IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

#### To be lieutenant commander

#### AARON B. MAYER

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

#### To be commander

#### SHEILA I. ALMENDRAS-FLAHERTY

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

#### To be commander

#### JOHN J. KITT

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

#### To be captain

ADRIAN D. RAGLAND

#### IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U. S.C., SECTION

#### To be colonel

MARK S. JIMISON GARRETT E. MEANS ERIC K. TERASHIMA MARK A. THIEME SHAWN P. WONDERLICH

#### CONFIRMATIONS

#### Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate March 27, 2017:

#### IN THE AIR FORCE

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

#### To be major general

To be major general BRIG. GEN. TONY D. BAUERNFEIND BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM T. COOLEY BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM T. COOLEY BRIG. GEN. STEPHEN I. DAVIS BRIG. GEN. PATRICK J. DOHERTY BRIG. GEN. PATRICK J. DOHERTY BRIG. GEN. DAVID A. KRUMM BRIG. GEN. DAVID A. KRUMM BRIG. GEN. DAVID A. KRUMB BRIG. GEN. JEFFREY A. KRUSE BRIG. GEN. HICHAEL A. MINHAN BRIG. GEN. SHAUN Q. MORRIS BRIG. GEN. THOMAS E MURPHY BRIG. GEN. DAVID S. NAHOM BRIG. GEN. DAVID S. NAHOM BRIG. GEN. SCOTT L. PLEUS BRIG. GEN. SCOTT L. PLEUS BRIG. GEN. JOHN T. RAUCH, JR. BRIG. GEN. JOHN T. RAUCH, JR. BRIG. GEN. BRIAN S. ROBINSON BRIG. GEN. BRIAN S. ROBINSON BRIG. GEN. RICKY N. RUPP BRIG. GEN. DIRK D. SMITH BRIG. GEN. KIRK W. SMITH BRIG. GEN. ANDREW J. TOTH BRIG. GEN. ANDREW J. TOTH BRIG. GEN. MARK E. WEATHERINGTON THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS F.

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

#### To be brigadier general

COL. DAGVIN R. M. ANDERSON COL. JASON R. ARMAGOST

#### March 27, 2017

COL. CRAIG R. BAKER
COL. GENTRY W. BOSWELL
COL. RICHARD H. BOUTWELL
COL. RYAN L. BRITTON
COL. BRIAN R. BRUCKBAUER COL. RYAN L. BRITTON
COL. BRIAN R. BRUCKBAUER
COL. LANCE R. BUNCH
COL. TODD D. CANTERBURY
COL. CASE A. CUNNINGHAM
COL. BYAN C. DERTIEN
COL. MICHAEL L. DOWNS
COL. TROY E. DUNN
COL. DEREK C. FRANCE
COL. DAVID M. GAEDECKE
COL. PHILIP A. GARRANT
COL. ANTHONY W. GENATEMPO
COL. KRISTIN E. GOODWIN
COL. CHISTOPHER J. IRELAND
COL. JOEL D. JACKSON
COL. JOEL D. JACKSON
COL. JOEL D. JACKSON
COL. MICHAEL G. KOSCHESKI
COL. MICHAEL G. KOSCHESKI
COL. DAVID J. KUMASHIRO

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

COL. JOHN D. LAMONTAGNE COL, LEAH G. LAUDERBACK COL. LEAH G. LAUDERBACK
COL. CHARLES B. MCDANIEL
COL. JOHN C. MILLARD
COL. ALBERT G. MILLER
COL. JOHN J. NICHOLLS
COL. ROBERT G. NOVOTNY
COL. LANSING R. PILCH
COL. DONNA D. SHIPTON
COL. JEREMY T. SLOANE
COL. PHILIP A. STEWART
COL. DAVID H. TABOR

#### IN THE ARMY

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

#### To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. PAUL A. OSTROWSKI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE  $10,\,\mathrm{U.s.c.}$ , SECTION 601:

#### To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. SEAN B. MACFARLAND

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE  $10, \mathrm{U.s.c.}$ , SECTION 12203:

#### To be major general

BRIG. GEN. FRANCISCO A. ESPAILLAT

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

#### To be brigadier general

COL. JEFFREY A. ROACH

S2015