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No. 43

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KILDEE).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 11, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DANIEL T. KILDEE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

NEBRASKA CAREER PROGRAMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight several efforts in my Nebraska congressional district which prepare Nebraskans to join the workforce and encourage entrepreneurship.

I visited the New Heavy Equipment Operator Training program at the Hastings Campus of Central Community College. It provides both training and hands-on experience with heavy construction equipment.

Grand Island Public Schools actually has partnered with the Career Pathways Institute to offer courses on subjects ranging from business and marketing to human services and health science.

Arnold High School's only School House Graphic Products teaches students about technology, design, and business, with the opportunity to earn college credit through Mid-Plains Community College.

And Scottsbluff High School recently launched its career academies, including agriculture, business, and technical sciences.

These are just a few of the home-grown initiatives from across the State of Nebraska which are making a difference in the lives of Nebraskans, strengthening our workforce, and growing the economy.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KILDEE) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

Reverend Meg Peery McLaughlin, Burke Presbyterian Church, Burke, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, in You we live and move and have our being.

Amid these public servants, gathered to govern as they swore to do, we invoke Your presence, O God, greater

than we can ever grasp, and as near as the intake of our own breath.

Expose our stubborn bias that deprives our life. Reconstruct relationships to enliven joy in the work ahead. Ignite our integrity and right-size us in our britches. Refuse our apathy with an outpouring of Your hope. Untangle our pride and pain, allowing room for Your truth to creep in and guide our way.

We make this prayer resting in the promise that we belong to You, and thus to one another.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause one, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILLIAMS 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.

CONGRATULATING CARUTHERS GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

(Mr. COX of California asked and was given permission to address the House for one minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Caruthers girls basketball team, our CIF Division V State Basketball Champions.

On Friday afternoon, despite playing a school with roughly four times the

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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enrollment, our Blue Raiders rolled to an impressive 62 to 38 victory over Ramona-Riverside.

Friday's victory is a testament that hard work, practice, and teamwork is a recipe for success in any arena.

Coach Almeida put it best when she said her girls are, "Winners by nature. They're fighters and tough and never give up."

I am proud to represent: Anna Marshall, Eshnoor Gasoj, Felicia Ramirez, Jacklyn Kulow, Kathleen Duran, Destiny Giles, Jennyfer Balino, Paige Sterling, Aileen Cortez, Elvis Ponce, Jaque Magana, Malia Ishii, Mikayla Duran, and Jasmine Torres.

I am excited to see their future victories and the success I know they will continue to have on the court and in life.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Blue Raiders, our Division V California State Basketball Champions.

RECOGNIZING USMC LANCE CORPORAL PLUNK

(Mr. WILLIAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for one minute.)

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to recognize a member of the United States Marine Corps from the 25th District of Texas, Lance Corporal Alyssa Joy Plunk.

On December 20, 2018, a little over a year into her enlistment, the U.S. Marine Corps took notice of her impressive level of leadership and awarded her the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

During a training operation, she was tasked with transporting a number of people and cargo over 700 miles. Her review stated that her superior proficiency enabled her to negotiate challenging conditions without any incidents.

She was awarded for the professional achievement she demonstrated during this operation and for a job well done.

I think it goes without saying that the men and women who make up our Armed Forces are a unique bunch that embodies everything that is good about America.

They serve our country selflessly, and for that, I am eternally grateful.

I appreciate Lance Corporal Plunk's dedication to her country and am proud of all that she has already achieved in a short amount of time.

I am praying for her safety while she is deployed and look forward to her return.

God bless the United States Marine Corps.

In God We Trust.

THE ONGOING OPIOID CRISIS

(Mr. KATKO asked and was given permission to address the House for one minute.)

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the role of

fenentanyl and other synthetic analogs in the ongoing opioid crisis facing our Nation.

Thousands of Americans die each year as a result of overdoses caused by these dangerous substances, which mimic the effects of street drugs, but are significantly more powerful and more dangerous.

During last week's Homeland Security hearing, I asked Secretary Nielsen about any recent significant seizures of fenentanyl at America's borders. Secretary Nielsen's response was absolutely frightening, as she informed the committee that the amount of fenentanyl seized by ICE in the last year alone was enough to kill every living American twice.

This statistic should trouble each and every one of my colleagues. Congress must take immediate action to ensure law enforcement has all the necessary tools to prevent illicit synthetic opioids from entering the country.

My bill last Congress, the Stop the Importation and Trafficking of Synthetic Analogues Act, would have addressed these issues, and I intend to reintroduce that bill in a similar legislative form in the coming months.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in the critical effort to combat substance abuse and save American lives.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bill was signed by the Speaker on Friday, March 8, 2019:

S. 49, to designate the outstation of the Department of Veterans Affairs in North Ogden, Utah, as the Major Brent Taylor Vet Center Outstation.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1601

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COX of California) at 4 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Mariel Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair

will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER MOBILITY DEMONSTRATION ACT OF 2019

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1122) to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to carry out a housing choice voucher mobility demonstration to encourage families receiving such voucher assistance to move to lower-poverty areas and expand access to opportunity areas.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1122

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 "Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Demonstration Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER MOBILITY DEMONSTRATION.

(a) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (in this section referred to as the "Secretary") may carry out a mobility demonstration program to enable public housing agencies to administer housing choice voucher assistance under section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)) in a manner designed to encourage families receiving such voucher assistance to move to lower-poverty areas and expand access to opportunity areas.

(b) SELECTION OF PHAS.—

(1) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall establish requirements for public housing agencies to participate in the demonstration program under this section, which shall provide that the following public housing agencies may participate:

(A) Public housing agencies that together—

(i) serve areas with high concentrations of holders of rental assistance vouchers under section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)) in poor, low-opportunity neighborhoods; and

(ii) have an adequate number of moderately priced rental units in higher-opportunity areas.

(B) Planned consortia or partial consortia of public housing agencies that—

(i) include at least one agency with a high-performing Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program; and

(ii) will enable participating families to continue in such program if they relocate to the jurisdiction served by any other agency of the consortium.

(C) Planned consortia or partial consortia of public housing agencies that—

(i) serve jurisdictions within a single region;

(ii) include one or more small agencies; and

(iii) will consolidate mobility focused operations.

(D) Such other public housing agencies as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(2) SELECTION CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall establish competitive selection criteria for public housing agencies eligible under paragraph (1) to participate in the demonstration program under this section.

(3) **RANDOM SELECTION OF FAMILIES.**—The Secretary may require participating agencies to use a randomized selection process to select among the families eligible to receive mobility assistance under the demonstration program.

(c) **REGIONAL HOUSING MOBILITY PLAN.**—The Secretary shall require each public housing agency applying to participate in the demonstration program under this section to submit a Regional Housing Mobility Plan (in this section referred to as a “Plan”), which shall—

(1) identify the public housing agencies that will participate under the Plan and the number of vouchers each participating agency will make available out of their existing programs in connection with the demonstration;

(2) identify any community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and other entities that will participate under the Plan and describe the commitments for such participation made by each such entity;

(3) identify any waivers or alternative requirements requested for the execution of the Plan;

(4) identify any specific actions that the public housing agencies and other entities will undertake to accomplish the goals of the demonstration, which shall include a comprehensive approach to enable a successful transition to opportunity areas and may include counseling and continued support for families;

(5) specify the criteria that the public housing agencies would use to identify opportunity areas under the plan;

(6) provide for establishment of priority and preferences for participating families, including a preference for families with young children, as such term is defined by the Secretary, based on regional housing needs and priorities; and

(7) comply with any other requirements established by the Secretary.

(d) **FUNDING FOR MOBILITY-RELATED SERVICES.**—

(1) **USE OF ADMINISTRATIVE FEES.**—Public housing agencies participating in the demonstration program under this section may use administrative fees under section 8(q) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(q)), their administrative fee reserves, and funding from private entities to provide mobility-related services in connection with the demonstration program, including services such as counseling, portability coordination, landlord outreach, security deposits, and administrative activities associated with establishing and operating regional mobility programs.

(2) **USE OF HOUSING ASSISTANCE FUNDS.**—Public housing agencies participating in the demonstration under this section may use housing assistance payments funds under section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)) for security deposits if necessary to enable families to lease units with vouchers in designated opportunity areas.

(e) **WAIVERS; ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **WAIVERS.**—To allow for public housing agencies to implement and administer their Regional Housing Mobility Plans, the Secretary may waive or specify alternative requirements for the following provisions of the United States Housing Act of 1937:

(A) Sections 8(o)(7)(A) and 8(o)(13)(E)(i) (relating to the term of a lease and mobility requirements).

(B) Section 8(o)(13)(C)(i) (relating to the public housing plan for an agency).

(C) Section 8(r)(2) (relating to the responsibility of a public housing agency to administer assistance).

(2) **ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENTS.**—The Secretary shall provide additional authority for public housing agencies in a selected region to form a consortium that has a single housing choice voucher funding contract, or to enter into a partial consortium to operate all or portions of the Regional Housing Mobility Plan, including agencies participating in the Moving To Work Demonstration program.

(3) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—Any waiver or alternative requirements pursuant to this subsection shall not take effect before the expiration of the 10-day period beginning upon publication of notice of such waiver or alternative requirement in the Federal Register.

(f) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—The Secretary may implement the demonstration, including its terms, procedures, requirements, and conditions, by notice.

(g) **EVALUATION.**—Not later than 5 years after implementation of the regional housing mobility programs under the demonstration program under this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Congress and publish in the Federal Register a report evaluating the effectiveness of the strategies pursued under the demonstration, subject to the availability of funding to conduct the evaluation. Through official websites and other methods, the Secretary shall disseminate interim findings as they become available, and shall, if promising strategies are identified, notify the Congress of the amount of funds that would be required to expand the testing of these strategies in additional types of public housing agencies and housing markets.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, rigorous studies have demonstrated that giving a low-income family an opportunity to move to a lower-poverty neighborhood can have a profound impact, particularly for children.

For example, one study found that young boys and girls in families that used a voucher to move to lower-poverty neighborhoods were 32 percent more likely to attend college and earned 31 percent more, or nearly \$3,500 a year, compared to their counterparts in families who did not receive a voucher.

Unfortunately, families with housing choice vouchers who want to move to a better neighborhood can face significant challenges, particularly if it involves moving from one public housing agency jurisdiction to another. In fact, data shows that only one in eight families with children with a housing choice voucher use their vouchers to live in lower-poverty areas.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1122 would help reduce barriers to mobility by establishing a demonstration program that would enable and incentivize public housing agencies to come together to come up with a regional plan to increase mobility across their jurisdictions.

This is a bipartisan proposal that was included in HUD budget requests under the Obama administration. Further, \$25 million in funding for this demonstration was included in fiscal year 2019 funding bill for HUD programs, and a version of this bill passed the House last Congress 368 to 19.

This demonstration will not only provide thousands of families with opportunities to move to better neighborhoods, but it will also lay the foundation for how successful outcomes can be replicated at a larger scale across the country.

I congratulate the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY) for introducing this initiative.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to vote “yes” on H.R. 1122, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1122, the Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Demonstration Act of 2019.

As currently administered, housing vouchers often are insufficient in helping American families get access to neighborhoods with greater opportunities. That is why H.R. 1122 is so important.

A strong body of research shows that growing up in a safe, lower-poverty neighborhood with good schools improves children’s academic achievement and long-term chances of success, and may reduce intergenerational poverty.

A recent groundbreaking Harvard study found that young children in families who used housing vouchers to move to better neighborhoods fared much better as young adults than similar children who remained in extremely poor neighborhoods.

The Harvard study found that young boys and girls in families who use a voucher to move to lower-poverty neighborhoods were 32 percent more likely to attend college and earned 31 percent more as young adults than their counterparts in families who did not receive an MTO voucher. Girls in families who moved to lower-poverty neighborhoods were also 30 percent less likely to be single parents as adults.

And let us not forget that location also affects adults in many ways, such as access to jobs, the cost of getting to work, the feasibility of balancing child care responsibilities with work schedules, and other basic goods and services.

Voucher mobility is key to enabling families with children to move to safer neighborhoods with less poverty, thereby enhancing their chances of long-

term health and success. H.R. 1122 will provide the foundation for many of these key changes.

I thank Mr. DUFFY and Mr. CLEAVER for their hard work in looking into this issue and providing evidence-based solutions to affect positive change in families and communities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 1122, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER), the chair of the Subcommittee on National Security, International Development and Monetary Policy.

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, this piece of legislation is particularly significant to me. I lived in public housing for 5 years. I saw what the possibilities were there. I saw people who did not make it, and I saw people who did make it.

The one thing that I found difficult to accept was the fact that if you lived in public housing, almost every rule made was designed, unintentionally, to keep you in public housing.

My father didn't tell the truth about the fact that he was cleaning up at an office building on Saturday earning some additional money and then serving at parties on the weekends. He had to pretend that that didn't happen because he was saving money trying to get our family in our own home. And it worked. He is watching C-SPAN right now, hearing his son talk about what could have happened.

The essence of this bill was passed as a part of the appropriations package that was signed into law earlier this year. It promotes housing mobility for individuals who rely on housing vouchers.

Under this bill, the Department of Housing and Urban Development would establish a demonstration program to allow interested public housing agencies to form consortia to enhance mobility and provide residents with increased opportunity to move to higher-income communities.

There is something contagious about working around only poor people. If you live in a neighborhood and all you see are people who are struggling, it is easy to come to the conclusion that that is the way life is: that you are just supposed to struggle and that you are just supposed to barely make it. If you don't see the signs of people who are making progress—people who are achieving—you might come to the conclusion that achievement is beyond one's reach.

This was demonstrated with a research project from Harvard economists Raj Chetty, Nathaniel Hendren, and Lawrence Katz which indicates that children who move to higher-opportunity neighborhoods increase their chances of success. More specifically, the study found that children who were able to use housing vouchers to move to lower-poverty areas were 32 percent more likely to attend college and

earned 31 percent more a year than their counterparts in lower-income neighborhoods.

This bill removes barriers by providing families with the tools to navigate a move from one neighborhood to another. H.R. 1122 will allow more families to thrive by increasing their access to higher performing schools, employment opportunities, fresh and affordably priced foods, and safe playgrounds.

There is something about homeownership or living in a nice neighborhood. Our family was able to move out. My father bought a house in a White neighborhood where we could not live and had it moved at night from the Midwestern Parkway to Gerald Street, where my father lives today. And, my goodness, I wish the world could see what transpired.

My father's yard is in contention with any yard in town for the yard of the summer. We had a water shortage in Texas—we had a drought, a serious drought 38 years ago—and my father would get up at 3 a.m. in the morning to trick the city people who would come out checking to see if anybody was violating the water ordinance by watering his lawn at 2, 3, or 4 a.m. in the morning.

While I am confessing my father broke the law, the truth of the matter is that it pleased me because we had never had a yard in my life until we were able to get out of public housing. So not only does it give the children an opportunity for a higher achievement educationally, but it also does something for the homeowner.

This bill removes barriers, and I am supportive of that.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, friend, and former neighbor, SEAN DUFFY, who worked with me on this bill. And I also thank the chair and the ranking member of the committee for their continued support.

With this, I am hopeful that we can continue working across the aisle to promote housing opportunity for all of our constituents.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I reiterate my support for the bill.

I thank Mr. CLEAVER for his personal testimony today. It was very compelling. It is a tremendous story of success in the use of these things and how changing our neighborhoods can really be helpful.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1615

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that we were able to work in a bipartisan manner on this initiative. This bill shows that we can foster new ideas and help improve services and flexibility for our citizens who are receiving housing assistance.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) for his engagement on the bill, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1122.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

FEDERAL RESERVE SUPERVISION TESTIMONY CLARIFICATION ACT

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 974) to amend the Federal Reserve Act to require the Vice Chairman for Supervision of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to provide a written report, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 974

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Federal Reserve Supervision Testimony Clarification Act".

SEC. 2. VICE CHAIRMAN FOR SUPERVISION REPORT REQUIREMENT.

Paragraph (12) of section 10 of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 247b) is amended—

(1) by redesignating such paragraph as paragraph (11); and

(2) in such paragraph—

(A) by striking "shall appear" and inserting "shall provide written testimony and appear"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following: "If, at the time of any appearance described in this paragraph, the position of Vice Chairman for Supervision is vacant, the Chairman or their designee shall appear instead and provide the required written testimony."

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very straightforward piece of legislation.

It clarifies that the Vice Chairman for Supervision is required to provide testimony along with his appearance before the committee.

Additionally, if the position is vacant, the bill makes clear that the Chair of the Board shall appear and provide testimony on supervision and regulation efforts.

I think it makes good sense to codify who at the Board will testify before Congress on the status of the Fed's supervisory efforts regardless of whether there is a person confirmed for the Vice Chairman for Supervision or not.

When Congress passed the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, it created the position of Vice Chairman for Supervision so that there was one Fed Board Governor who was responsible for ensuring robust rules for the Nation's largest financial institutions.

We now have a Vice Chairman for Supervision at the Fed, but the position had previously been vacant since its creation in 2010, so it is helpful to clarify how Congress will continue to be informed about developments at the Fed.

This bill already passed the House last year on a voice vote.

I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GOTTHEIMER) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) for introducing this legislation.

I urge all Members to vote "yes" on H.R. 974.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 974, the Federal Reserve Supervision Testimony Clarification Act, an important bipartisan bill that will provide Congress greater oversight of regulation and supervision at the Federal Reserve.

The Vice Chairman for Supervision of the Federal Reserve exercises and oversees the Board's supervisory and regulatory authority over a variety of financial institutions and activities. This role is imperative to promote a safe, sound, and stable financial system that supports the growth and stability of the U.S. economy.

This bill before us today will ensure that the Federal Reserve will come forth and testify before Congress on issues relating to the supervision of financial institutions, giving added transparency to the American people, as well as increasing the Fed's accountability.

The issues overseen by this position are of high importance to the American people and our financial system. It is crucial that we have the ability to hear testimony and ask questions of the Federal Reserve on these complicated issues.

I would like to thank Congressman GOTTHEIMER for sponsoring and Congressman LUCAS for cosponsoring this much-needed legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS).

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to tell my colleagues about H.R. 974 and urge they pass it.

This is a bill about congressional oversight, pure and simple. As this body knows, Dodd-Frank gave the Federal Reserve greater regulatory authority and established the Vice Chairman for Supervision position to oversee those efforts; but the first confirmed appointee to that position took office in 2017, a full 7 years after Dodd-Frank.

During that time, Congress received minimal testimony on regulatory issues from the Fed. Typically, other officials who didn't oversee the regulatory efforts gave testimony in this regard. But the key point is, Dodd-Frank requires only the Vice Chairman for Supervision to give that testimony.

While we are grateful that other Federal officials decided to speak to Congress on regulatory issues, they didn't have to, under the law.

I introduced this bill last Congress as a way to prevent that situation from arising ever again. Under the bill, if there is no Vice Chairman for Supervision, either the Fed Chair or their designee will be required to give annual testimony on regulatory matters. It is that simple. As a result, this bill passed unanimously out of the Financial Services Committee last Congress.

As I said, this bill is about the oversight authority of Congress and the other constituents we represent.

It remains vitally important that we and our Senate friends hear from knowledgeable regulatory officials at these agencies, particularly when these regulations have a large effect on the capital money markets; otherwise, our constituents will become even more distrustful of government.

Transparency is key. In fact, it is one of the largest responsibilities of the Members of Congress. This promotes that responsibility and, thus, deserves to be passed.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Mr. GOTTHEIMER's willingness to bring this bill to the floor. I thank the chairwoman and the ranking member for supporting this bill. I hope my colleagues will follow this example and vote in favor.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased with the bipartisan cooperation shown by this legislation and fully sup-

port the efforts of the sponsors to increase accountability and transparency.

I want to thank the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) for his engagement on the bill and, again, urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation, H.R. 974.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 974, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FINCEN IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2019

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1414) to amend the duties of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) to ensure FinCEN works with Tribal law enforcement agencies, protects against all forms of terrorism, and focuses on virtual currencies.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1414

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 "FinCEN Improvement Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The mission of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) is to safeguard the financial system from illicit use and combat money laundering and promote national security through the collection, analysis, and dissemination of financial intelligence and strategic use of financial authorities.

(2) In its mission to safeguard the financial system from the abuses of financial crime, including terrorist financing, money laundering and other illicit activity, the United States should prioritize working with partners in Federal, State, local, Tribal, and foreign law enforcement authorities.

(3) The Federal Bureau of Investigation has stated that since the terror attacks on September 11, 2001, "The threat landscape has expanded considerably, though it is important to note that the more traditional threat posed by al Qaeda and its affiliates is still present and active. The threat of domestic terrorism also remains persistent overall, with actors crossing the line from First Amendment protected rights to committing crimes to further their political agenda."

(4) Although the use and trading of virtual currencies are legal practices, some terrorists and criminals, including international criminal organizations, seek to exploit vulnerabilities in the global financial system and are increasingly using emerging payment methods such as virtual currencies to move illicit funds.

(5) In carrying out its mission, FinCEN should prioritize all forms of terrorism and

emerging methods of terrorism and illicit finance.

SEC. 3. STRENGTHENING FINCEN.

Section 310 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (C)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking “appropriate Federal, State, local, and foreign law enforcement agencies” and inserting “appropriate Federal, State, local, Tribal, and foreign law enforcement agencies”; and

(B) in clause (vi), by striking “to protect against international terrorism” and inserting “to protect against terrorism”;

(2) in paragraph (E), by striking “appropriate Federal, State, local, and foreign law enforcement authorities” and inserting “appropriate Federal, State, local, Tribal, and foreign law enforcement authorities”;

(3) in paragraph (F), by striking “Federal, State, local, and foreign law enforcement” and inserting “Federal, State, local, Tribal, and foreign law enforcement”; and

(4) in paragraph (H), by striking “anti-terrorism and anti-money laundering initiatives, and similar efforts” and inserting “anti-terrorism and anti-money laundering initiatives, including matters involving emerging technologies or value that substitutes for currency, and similar efforts”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the FinCEN Improvement Act is a bill that will strengthen the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, FinCEN, our national security, and our financial system. A form of this bipartisan bill was introduced last year with the exact same language, and it unanimously passed the House on suspension by voice vote.

Currently, FinCEN works with Federal, State, local, and foreign law enforcement authorities in its anti-money laundering/counter terror financing objectives. Although Tribal law enforcement is a strong partner in fighting crime and safeguarding our country's national security, they are not yet listed in the FinCEN statute alongside their law enforcement partners.

Though FinCEN voluntarily works with Tribal law enforcement in these objectives, this legislation will make FinCEN's assistance to Tribal law enforcement mandatory. This bill will also amend FinCEN's statute to protect against all forms of terrorism. As written, the underlying statute only requires the protection against international terrorism.

While the United States faces a serious threat from foreign terrorist orga-

nizations, the threat from both home-grown violent extremists and domestic terrorists has sharply increased within the past several years. Although this type of terrorism has been less discussed in the news cycle, these terrorists are equally as dangerous as international terrorist organizations, if not more.

In fact, a survey of 382 law enforcement agencies, conducted with the Police Executive Research Forum with funding from the National Institute of Justice, found that 74 percent of the law enforcement agencies reported antigovernment extremism, such as sovereign citizen extremism, as one of the top terrorist threats in their jurisdictions. This part of the bill will ensure that a proper focus be paid to all forms of terrorism.

Additionally, this bill will require FinCEN to work with foreign financial intelligence units on anti-money laundering and counter terror financing initiatives with respect to emerging technologies such as cryptocurrencies, which are increasingly used by terrorists and transnational criminals.

As the threat environment has changed with the birth and prominence of cryptocurrencies, online marketplaces, and the dark web, FinCEN needs to coordinate with and support our international partners that share our common anti-money laundering/counter terror financing goals.

For these reasons, I am proud to support this legislation, and I congratulate Congresswoman WEXTON and Congressman RIGGLEMAN for introducing this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to vote “yes” on this important legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1414, the FinCEN Improvement Act.

This bipartisan piece of legislation passed the House by a voice vote last Congress. I am happy to see that my colleague, Congressman RIGGLEMAN of Virginia, has joined Congresswoman WEXTON in reintroducing it this Congress.

This is the first piece of cosponsored legislation Congressman RIGGLEMAN had on the floor, and the fact that it focuses on terrorism speaks directly to his past service in the Air Force and his continued effort to protect the American people from bad actors. Mr. Speaker, I thank him and Congresswoman WEXTON for leading this fight to protect the American people.

H.R. 1414 outlines how the terror landscape in our post-9/11 world has expanded.

Now, we are tasked with protecting the American people not only from traditional threats posed by groups like al-Qaida abroad, but also domestic terrorism, where crimes are committed on U.S. soil by both foreign and U.S. persons.

H.R. 1414 mandates that FinCEN focus on all forms of terror, not just foreign terror campaigns. This is a commonsense update to the statute that would bring added clarity to our antiterrorism laws.

H.R. 1414 also strengthens FinCEN by ensuring cooperation with Tribal law enforcement agencies and the prioritization of virtual currencies.

□ 1630

Illicit actors have been found to be using virtual currencies because of their ability to provide anonymity. Some virtual currencies have been shown to frustrate law enforcement's efforts to link transactions to people or IP addresses.

It is for this exact reason that FinCEN needs to be able to allocate resources and manpower to investigate and thwart instances of terrorism that involve all forms of virtual currencies.

Mr. Speaker, it is our sworn duty to protect the American people, and H.R. 1414 allows FinCEN to adapt its investigative abilities to prevent terrorism in our digital age.

Again, I thank Ms. WEXTON and Mr. RIGGLEMAN for their leadership, and I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. WEXTON).

Ms. WEXTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairwoman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1414, the FinCEN Improvement Act, bipartisan legislation I introduced with my Financial Services Committee colleague and fellow Virginian, Congressman DENVER RIGGLEMAN.

This is a practical bill that will help modernize the duties of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, otherwise known as FinCEN. The mission of FinCEN is to safeguard the financial system from crimes or illicit use, such as terrorist financing; combat money laundering; and promote national security through the collection, analysis, and dissemination of financial information and intelligence.

H.R. 1414 would do three things to further their important mission.

First is in the area of investigation into terror financing. FinCEN is currently authorized to combat international terrorism but fails to mention domestic terror activities. While international terror threats remain present and relevant, the threat landscape has expanded considerably and also includes domestic terror groups that commit crimes to further their agendas.

H.R. 1414 will amend the FinCEN authorizing legislation to clarify its role in investigating and combating terror threats, be they foreign or domestic. FinCEN is already doing important work to combat domestic terrorism, but the bill will clarify its role and correct this oversight in the statute.

Second, the virtual currency landscape is rapidly evolving and many of these technologies did not exist when previous laws and regulations were written. H.R. 1414 will help FinCEN combat emerging methods of financing illicit activity, including the use of cryptocurrency.

Finally, the FinCEN Improvement Act builds on existing relationships with law enforcement partners by ensuring that FinCEN has the authority to work not only with Federal, State, and local law enforcement, but also with Tribal law enforcement across the country.

I am proud to cosponsor this bill, Mr. Speaker, and I urge our colleagues to support it.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. RIGGLEMAN), one of our outstanding freshmen from the freshman class of this past fall.

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to rise in support as the lead Republican sponsor of H.R. 1414, the FinCEN Improvement Act of 2019.

I thank my colleague and fellow Member from the Commonwealth of Virginia, Representative JENNIFER WEXTON, for her work on this legislation. This bill is a tangible example of what Congress can accomplish when we put aside our differences and work together.

FinCEN, or the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, is a critical component of law enforcement, as the agency is charged with promoting national security by safeguarding our financial system.

Terrorists, drug smugglers, human traffickers, and other criminal actors are constantly innovating and creating new ways to exploit the system. Bad actors know the current limitations of law enforcement and how to profit immensely from our weaknesses as they are constantly developing their tactics, techniques, and procedures, or TTPs, based on our security posture.

It is FinCEN's mission to cut the head off the snake and combat illicit financing of these activities. This bill will strengthen FinCEN in three key areas.

First, it strengthens FinCEN by codifying the domestic responsibilities of combating illicit finance. We know all too well the danger international terrorists pose, but it is equally important that we police criminal financial activity domestically as well. By reinforcing FinCEN's domestic mandate, we are sending a message to all Americans that we will not tolerate criminal activity either at home or abroad.

Second, this bill adds Tribal law enforcement to the list of FinCEN partners. By ensuring robust and comprehensive law enforcement partners, we are equipping the agencies charged with safeguarding our financial system with the necessary tools and information to execute their mission. Partnering with Tribal law enforce-

ment closes a potential loophole that terrorists can use to inject illicit money into the system.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, this bill clearly incorporates cryptocurrencies and other emerging technologies that substitute for currency.

As financial technology, or fintech, evolves, so do the opportunities for criminals to take advantage of the financial system. We must ensure that our law enforcement agencies have a clear directive from Congress to take on all challenges and risks facing our financial system.

Mr. Speaker, today, I ask all my colleagues in the people's House to join me and Ms. WEXTON by voting in favor of this legislation.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I reiterate my support for H.R. 1414, the FinCEN Improvement Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that Ms. WEXTON and Mr. RIGGLEMAN have brought this issue to the full House. It addresses key gaps in our efforts to fight financial crime, something we all should support.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1414.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COOPERATE WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND WATCH ACT OF 2019

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 758) to provide a safe harbor for financial institutions that maintain a customer account or customer transaction at the request of a Federal or State law enforcement agency, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 758

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 "Cooperate with Law Enforcement Agencies and Watch Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. SAFE HARBOR WITH RESPECT TO KEEP OPEN LETTERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 53 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 5333. Safe harbor with respect to keep open letters

"(a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a customer account or customer transaction of a

financial institution, if a Federal, State, Tribal, or local law enforcement agency requests, in writing, the financial institution to keep such account or transaction open—

"(1) the financial institution shall not be liable under this subchapter for maintaining such account or transaction consistent with the parameters of the request; and

"(2) no Federal or State department or agency may take any adverse supervisory action under this subchapter with respect to the financial institution for maintaining such account or transaction consistent with the parameters of the request.

"(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed—

"(1) from preventing a Federal or State department or agency from verifying the validity of a written request described under subsection (a) with the Federal, State, Tribal, or local law enforcement agency making the written request; or

"(2) to relieve a financial institution from complying with any reporting requirements, including the reporting of suspicious transactions under section 5318(g).

"(c) LETTER TERMINATION DATE.—For purposes of this section, any written request described under subsection (a) shall include a termination date after which such request shall no longer apply."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for chapter 53 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 5332 the following:

"5333. Safe harbor with respect to keep open letters."

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 758 would strengthen cooperation between financial institutions and law enforcement agencies to better detect, deter, and combat terrorism and financial crimes.

With respect to the Bank Secrecy Act anti-money laundering, referred to as BSA/AML, supervisory actions, this bill would carve out a narrow safe harbor for financial institutions to keep a customer's account open at the written request of a law enforcement agency, including those at the Federal, State, local, and Tribal levels.

This cooperation will enable law enforcement agencies to follow the money in the bank accounts of terrorists, human traffickers, corrupt officials, and those involved with organized crime.

Of equal importance, the legislation provides an assurance to financial institutions, clarifying that they will not be held liable for their cooperation and collaboration with law enforcement in helping to thwart illicit finance.

I will note that law enforcement agencies are currently expected to provide a written notice to financial institutions, requesting that the accounts of bad actors remain open to monitor transactions and build stronger criminal cases. However, this practice does not always happen and exposes financial institutions to enforcement actions from their banking regulators. Banks should not be put in a position to choose whether or not to help law enforcement out of concern about regulatory consequences.

We simply cannot allow bad actors to launder money and finance terror through our banks. H.R. 758 will encourage financial institutions to maintain a strong partnership with law enforcement.

In the 115th Congress, this bill was unanimously approved by the Financial Services Committee. The House passed the bill by a vote of 379–4.

I thank the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER) for introducing this bipartisan piece of legislation. This bill is one example of our committee's efforts to fight terrorism, corruption, and financial crime. I urge all Members to vote "yes" on H.R. 758. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first, let me thank Chairwoman WATERS for her work on this bill. I am delighted the House is considering this important bill, H.R. 758, which I have had the pleasure to work on over the past year with my good friend from Illinois, Congressman FOSTER.

As a former community banker, I have dealt with the conflict of wanting to help law enforcement agencies when receiving a keep open letter, but not being able to because of the need to comply with the requirements set forth by a regulator, frequently and often in the middle of a bank exam.

Today, the overall purpose of this bill is to support law enforcement and reduce money laundering and terrorist financing through our banking system. That is why, along with my friend Mr. FOSTER, I was pleased to introduce this, as the chairwoman said, narrow, commonsense bill, which enables partnerships without repercussions between law enforcement and our local financial institutions.

This legislation allows law enforcement to monitor cash flows associated with criminal investigations at finan-

cial institutions. Under the Bank Secrecy Act and anti-money laundering regulations, banks face strict rules for managing accounts so that they cannot facilitate money laundering, terrorism financing, drug running, and other illegal activities.

Sometimes, banks receive notices from law enforcement agencies known as keep open letters to encourage them to keep an account open so that law enforcement can monitor what they think to be and suspect to be criminal activity and track the payments for better monitoring.

I have heard recently from banks that they are seeing an increase in the number of keep open letters, many of which can be attributable to new human trafficking investigations. Allowing banks to keep these accounts open will help stop these terrible criminal actions.

Currently, if banks help law enforcement and comply with the keep open letter request, they face the risk of being penalized by someone from the same regulatory agency. This commonsense bill supports those efforts by law enforcement by allowing financial institutions to comply with such requests to maintain a suspicious account without being penalized in the middle of a bank exam. Under this bill, no Federal department or agency may take an adverse supervisory action with respect to the financial institution that is keeping the account open.

As the chairwoman said, last Congress, this legislation unanimously passed out of our House Financial Services Committee and passed under the suspension of the rules. The legislation was also included as a provision last Congress in the JOBS 3.0 package.

Chairman WATERS and former Chairman Hensarling made fighting illicit finance a priority for our committee. Given the strong bipartisanship, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this measure. It will give law enforcement the tools it needs to prosecute bad actors who are exploiting our financial system.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER).

□ 1645

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairwoman WATERS for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to start by thanking the chairwoman for bringing up this bipartisan bill today and for maintaining bipartisan momentum in the areas where bipartisan agreement is achievable. Chairwoman WATERS and her staff were instrumental in passing this bill in the last Congress and including it in JOBS 3.0.

I would also like to thank my friend, Congressman HILL, for working on the Cooperate with Law Enforcement Agencies and Watch Act, the CLAW Act, with me.

I am proud to support this bill, which passed with very strong bipartisan sup-

port in the last Congress, a 55–0 vote in the Financial Services Committee, a 379–4 vote on the House floor.

This bill creates a commonsense safe harbor from Bank Secrecy Act liability for a bank that keeps an account open at the request of law enforcement. For background, law enforcement agencies sometimes send what are called keep open letters to financial institutions so that they can obtain critical evidence in investigations by following the money.

While following these law enforcement requests is optional, agreeing to them does, in fact, create a technical violation of the Bank Secrecy Act. This complicates the decision for a financial institution that should be simple. This could, in fact, undermine our efforts to prevent illicit finance or money laundering.

This bill will enhance the ability of the law enforcement community to track funds in a criminal investigation, leading to better evidence and, hopefully, conviction of criminals higher up in the hierarchy. To be clear, nothing in this bill takes away from financial regulators' safety and soundness powers, and financial institutions still have to file SARs when they have a keep open letter.

In addition, this bill requires that the keep open letters have a definite duration but does not preclude law enforcement from sending subsequent letters to extend the period, should the investigation continue.

This bill is a great example of how Democrats and Republicans can come together on a number of issues of common interest.

In a world in which criminals and criminal organizations have access to increasingly sophisticated tools and technologies to carry out their criminal activities, we should help financial institutions in leveling the playing field to bring these criminals to justice.

This bill follows other commonsense, bipartisan efforts that I have supported to modernize our Nation's ability to confront dangerous criminals and criminal organizations. I recently introduced with Congressman KUSTOFF the CONFRONT Act, which would require the Treasury Department to develop a national strategy to combat the financial crimes of transnational criminal organizations and individuals. I am hopeful that this bill can also be passed in the near future with similarly strong bipartisan support.

This bill today is an important measure that allows financial institutions to effectively assist with combating crimes such as money laundering and illicit financing, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers on this side of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would just simply urge, with the work done by Mr. FOSTER and myself, and with thanks to

the Chair, that we have strong bipartisan support in favor of H.R. 758, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that Mr. HILL and Mr. FOSTER have brought this measure to the House on a bipartisan basis. It will help provide law enforcement more access to the critical information it needs and in a timely manner.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 758, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

THE BUDGET MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 116-3)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

In just over 2 years, together with the American people, we have launched an unprecedented economic boom. Since I was elected, we have created more than 5 million new jobs, including half a million manufacturing jobs. Nearly 5 million Americans have been lifted off food stamps. Unemployment is the lowest in nearly half a century. African American unemployment, Hispanic American unemployment, and Asian American unemployment rates have all reached historic lows. Our Nation is experiencing an economic miracle—and it is improving the lives of all our citizens.

We have achieved these extraordinary gains thanks to historic tax cuts and an unprecedented regulatory reduction campaign, through unleashing American energy production, systematically fixing bad trade deals, and remaining absolutely committed to putting the needs of the American worker first.

My Administration worked with the Congress to pass unprecedented legislation to confront the opioid crisis, a sweeping new farm bill, groundbreaking criminal justice reform, major investments to rebuild the military, and historic Department of

Veterans Affairs reforms to ensure that our great veterans have access to high quality healthcare.

We are also making our communities safer. To target violent crime, my Administration has increased support for Federal, State, and local law enforcement. We have added nearly 200 new violent crime prosecutors across the United States. And last year, the Department of Justice prosecuted more violent crimes than ever before. As a result, violent crime is falling.

My Administration is confronting the national security and humanitarian crisis on our southern border, and we are accepting the moral duty to create an immigration system that protects the lives and jobs of our citizens. This includes our obligation to the millions of immigrants living in the United States today who followed the rules and respected our laws.

In the 20th century, America saved freedom, transformed science, and defined the middle class standard of living. Now we must write the next chapter of the great American adventure, turbo-charging the industries of the future and establishing a new standard of living for the 21st century. An amazing quality of life for all of our citizens is within reach. We can make our communities safer, our families stronger, our culture richer, our faith deeper, and our middle class bigger and more prosperous than ever before.

We are now addressing our challenges from a position of strength. My 2020 Budget builds on the tremendous progress we have made and provides a clear roadmap for the Congress to bring Federal spending and debt under control. We must protect future generations from Washington's habitual deficit spending.

This year, I asked most executive departments and agencies to cut their budgets by at least 5 percent. In addition to reflecting those reductions, my Budget invests in the following priorities:

Securing our Borders and Protecting our Sovereignty. As President, my highest duty is the defense of our Nation—which is why finishing the border wall is an urgent national priority. All who are privileged to hold elected office must work together to create an immigration system that promotes wage growth and economic opportunity, while preventing drugs, terrorism, and crime from entering the United States. Immigration policy, like all policy, must serve the interests of Americans living here today—including the millions of new Americans who came here legally to join our national family. The American people are entitled to a strong border that stops illegal immigration, and a responsible visa policy that protects our security and our workforce. My Budget continues to reflect these priorities, and I look forward to working with the Congress to finish the border wall and build a safe, just, and lawful immigration system that will benefit generations of Americans to come.

Preserving Peace through Strength. A strong military, fully integrated with our allies and all our instruments of power, enables our Nation to deter war, preserve peace, and, if necessary, defeat aggression against United States interests. To that end, my Budget requests \$750 billion for national defense, an increase of \$34 billion, or 5 percent, from the 2019 enacted level. The Budget funds the National Security Strategy and National Defense Strategy, building on the major gains we have already made throughout the world.

Protecting our Veterans. Our Nation's brave warriors and defenders deserve the best care America has to offer—both during and after their active service. Last year, I signed into law the historic VA MISSION Act of 2018 to reform and transform the Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare system into an integrated system for the 21st century. My Budget fully funds all requirements for veterans' healthcare services and provides additional funding to implement the VA MISSION Act of 2018.

Investing in America's Students and Workers. To help protect taxpayer dollars, my Budget continues my request to create an educational finance system that requires postsecondary institutions that accept taxpayer funds to have skin in the game through a student loan risk-sharing program. My Administration will also continue to seek expanded Pell Grant eligibility for high-quality, short-term programs in high-demand fields, so that students and workers can quickly gain valuable skills at a more affordable cost and obtain family-sustaining jobs. We must create and invest in better opportunities for our Nation's students and job seekers, while ensuring that we do so in a more efficient and effective manner.

Research for Childhood Cancers. Many childhood cancers have not seen new therapies in decades. My Budget initiates a new effort that invests \$500 million over the next 10 years to support this critical life-saving research.

Defeating HIV/AIDS in America. The HIV epidemic still plagues our Nation, with more than 38,000 Americans infected every year. In response, my Budget provides \$291 million to the Department of Health and Human Services to defeat the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The goal is to eliminate most new infections within 5 years (75 percent) and nearly all within 10 years (90 percent). This initiative will focus efforts on diagnosis, prevention, and treatment efforts in the locations where intense transmissions of the virus are driving the epidemic.

Confronting the Opioid Epidemic. My Budget continues historic levels of funding for our law enforcement, prevention, and treatment efforts to combat the opioid and drug addiction epidemic.

Supporting Working Families. America must also lead in supporting the

families of our workforce so that they can balance the competing demands of work and family. My Budget includes a one-time, mandatory investment of \$1 billion for a competitive fund aimed at supporting under-served populations and stimulating employer investments in child care for working families. My Administration has also pledged to provide paid parental leave to help working parents, and we are committed to partnering with the Congress to enact this important policy.

We must always strive to uphold our oaths to promote and protect the personal and economic freedoms the Constitution guarantees to us all.

We must work together to renew the bonds of love and loyalty that link us to one another—as friends, as citizens, as neighbors, as patriots, and as Americans.

My Budget reflects my Administration's commitment to these worthy goals as it seeks to make the United States of America wealthier, stronger, safer, and greater for every American family and neighborhood.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 11, 2019.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 11, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 11, 2019, at 2:14 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 725.
Appointment:
Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation
With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ESPAILLAT) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 24, EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE REPORT OF SPECIAL COUNSEL MUELLER SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AND TO CONGRESS, AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM MARCH 15, 2019, THROUGH MARCH 22, 2019

Mr. DESAULNIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 116-17) on the resolution (H. Res. 208) providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 24) expressing the sense of Congress that the report of Special Counsel Mueller should be made available to the public and to Congress, and providing for proceedings during the period from March 15, 2019, through March 22, 2019, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

H.R. 1122, by the yeas and nays; and H.R. 758, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER MOBILITY DEMONSTRATION ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1122) to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to carry out a housing choice voucher mobility demonstration to encourage families receiving such voucher assistance to move to lower-poverty areas and expand access to opportunity areas, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 387, nays 22, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 119]

YEAS—387

Adams	Amodei	Bacon
Aderholt	Armstrong	Baird
Aguilar	Arrington	Balderson
Allen	Axne	Banks
Allred	Babin	Barr

Barragan	Ferguson	Lipinski
Bass	Finkenauer	Loeb sack
Beatty	Fitzpatrick	Loifren
Bera	Fleischmann	Long
Bergman	Fletcher	Loudermilk
Beyer	Fortenberry	Lowenthal
Bilirakis	Foster	Lowe y
Bishop (GA)	Foxx (NC)	Lucas
Bishop (UT)	Frankel	Luetkemeyer
Blumenauer	Fudge	Lujan
Blunt Rochester	Fulcher	Luria
Bonamici	Gallagher	Lynch
Bost	Garamendi	Malinowski
Boyle, Brendan F.	Garcia (IL)	Maloney
Brady	Garcia (TX)	Carolyn B. Maloney, Sean
Brindisi	Gianforte	Marchant
Brooks (IN)	Gibbs	Marshall
Brown (MD)	Golden	Mast
Brownley (CA)	Gomez	Matsui
Buchanan	Gonzalez (OH)	McAdams
Bucshon	Gonzalez (TX)	McBath
Budd	Gooden	McCarthy
Burchett	Gottheimer	McCaul
Burgess	Granger	McCollum
Bustos	Graves (GA)	McEeachin
Butterfield	Graves (LA)	McGovern
Calvert	Graves (MO)	McHenry
Carbajal	Green (TX)	McKinley
Cardenas	Griffith	McKinney
Carson (IN)	Guest	McNerney
Carter (GA)	Guthrie	Meadows
Carter (TX)	Haaland	Meng
Cartwright	Hagedorn	Meuser
Case	Harder (CA)	Miller
Casten (IL)	Hastings	Mitchell
Castor (FL)	Heck	Moolenaar
Castro (TX)	Hern, Kevin	Mooney (WV)
Chabot	Herrera Beutler	Morelle
Cheney	Higgins (NY)	Moulton
Chu, Judy	Hill (AR)	Mucarsel-Powell
Cicilline	Hill (CA)	Mullin
Cisneros	Himes	Murphy
Clark (MA)	Holding	Nadler
Clarke (NY)	Hollingsworth	Napolitano
Clay	Horn, Kendra S.	Neal
Cleaver	Horsford	Neguse
Clyburn	Houlahan	Newhouse
Cohen	Hoyer	Norcross
Cole	Hudson	Norman
Collins (GA)	Huffman	Nunes
Collins (NY)	Huizenga	O'Halleran
Comer	Hunter	Ocasio-Cortez
Conaway	Hurd (TX)	Olson
Connolly	Jackson Lee	Omar
Cook	Jayapal	Palazzo
Cooper	Jeffries	Pallone
Correa	Johnson (GA)	Palmer
Costa	Johnson (OH)	Panetta
Courtney	Johnson (SD)	Pappas
Cox (CA)	Johnson (TX)	Pascarell
Craig	Jordan	Payne
Crawford	Joyce (OH)	Pence
Crenshaw	Joyce (PA)	Perlmutter
Crist	Kaptur	Peters
Crow	Katko	Peterson
Cuellar	Keating	Phillips
Cummings	Kelly (IL)	Pingree
Cunningham	Kelly (MS)	Porter
Curtis	Kelly (PA)	Posey
Davids (KS)	Kennedy	Pressley
Davidson (OH)	Khanna	Quigley
Davis (CA)	Kildee	Raskin
Davis, Danny K.	Kilmer	Ratcliffe
Davis, Rodney	Kim	Reed
Dean	Kind	Reschenthaler
DeFazio	King (IA)	Rice (NY)
DeGette	King (NY)	Rice (SC)
DeLauro	Kinzinger	Richmond
DelBene	Kirkpatrick	Riggleman
Delgado	Krishnamoorthi	Roby
Demings	Kuster (NH)	Rodgers (WA)
DeSaulnier	Kustoff (TN)	Roe, David P.
DesJarlais	LaHood	Rogers (AL)
Deutch	LaMalfa	Rogers (KY)
Diaz-Balart	Lamb	Rooney (FL)
Dingell	Lamborn	Rose (NY)
Doggett	Langevin	Rose, John W.
Doyle, Michael F.	Larsen (WA)	Rouda
Duffy	Larson (CT)	Rouzer
Duncan	Latta	Roybal-Allard
Dunn	Lawrence	Ruiz
Emmer	Lawson (FL)	Ruppersberger
Escobar	Lee (CA)	Rutherford
Eshoo	Lee (NV)	Sarbanes
Espallat	Lesko	Scalise
Estes	Levin (CA)	Scanlon
Evans	Levin (MI)	Schakowsky
	Lewis	Schiff
	Lieu, Ted	Schneider

Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shalala
Sherman
Sherrill
Shimkus
Simpson
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spano
Speier
Stanton
Stauber

Stefanik
Steil
Stevens
Stewart
Stivers
Suozzi
Takano
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Timmons
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres Small
(NM)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela

Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Waltz
Waters
Watkins
Watson Coleman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Wright
Yarmuth
Zeldin

[Roll No. 120]

YEAS—404

Adams
Aderholt
Aguiar
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Axne
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady
Brindisi
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez (TX)
Gooden
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
Casten (IL)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Cloud
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Cox (CA)
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Cummings
Cunningham
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davidson (OH)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio

Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Quigley
Raskin
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Riggelman
Roby
Rodgers (WA)
Roe, David P.
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rooney (FL)
Rose (NY)
Rose, John W.
Rouda
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rutherford
Lesko
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)

Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shalala
Sherman
Sherrill
Shimkus
Simpson
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spano
Speler
Stanton
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Stewart
Stivers
Suozzi
Takano
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Timmons
Tipton
Titus
Tonko

NAYS—7

Amash
Burgess
Cline
Lucas
Griffith
Massie

Torres (CA)
Torres Small
(NM)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Spanberger
Waters
Watkins
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Wright
Yarmuth
Yoho
Young
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—20

Abraham
Engel
Flores
Gabbard
Gallego
Grijalva
Hayes
Johnson (LA)
Lee (NV)
Meeks
Moore
Pocan
Price (NC)
Rush

Roy
Ryan
Sánchez
Swalwell (CA)
Tlaib
Upton
Wasserman
Schultz

1856

Messrs. HICE of Georgia, YOHO, and WEBER of Texas changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I missed the vote on Roll Call No. 119. Had I been present, I would have voted “Yea”.

COOPERATE WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND WATCH ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 758) to provide a safe harbor for financial institutions that maintain a customer account or customer transaction at the request of a Federal or State law enforcement agency, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 404, nays 7, not voting 20, as follows:

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 119 and “nay” on rollcall No. 120.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 962, BORN-ALIVE ABORTION SURVIVORS PROTECTION ACT

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 962, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivor Protection Act, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, and recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leadership.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Mr. BOST. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, is it not true that under the Born-Alive Abortion Protection Act that infant survivors of abortion would receive lifesaving medical care?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has not stated a proper parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. BOST. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, does an infant survivor of an abortion not deserve the same care as other living human beings?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has not stated a proper parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. BOST. One more parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. BOST. Will the Chair entertain a unanimous consent request to enter into the RECORD comments from Virginia Governor Ralph Northam about infanticide?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will not provide an advisory opinion.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, if this unanimous consent request cannot be entertained on H.R. 962, I urge the Speaker and the majority leader to immediately schedule the Born-Alive bill so we can stand up and protect the sanctity of human life.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has not been recognized for debate.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE HONORABLE RALPH HALL

(Ms. JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like all members of the Texas delegation to join me.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize and pay tribute to the life and legacy of former Congressman, fellow Texan, and a dear friend, Ralph Hall.

Congressman Hall served the people of the great State of Texas for nearly a half century: 10 years as a Texas State Senator from the Ninth District, and 34 years as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Texas' Fourth District. He genuinely enjoyed public service, and he was good at it as well.

Known throughout the Halls of Congress as an effective legislator, Congressman Hall made great legislative strides in the science field and was a top advocate for the country's space program during his time as both chairman and ranking member of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Congressman Hall was the first to reach out and offer his assistance when I was first elected to the House of Representatives. He helped me learn the ins and outs of Washington. No matter the party affiliation or political leaning, Congressman Hall was a man who could always be counted on and one who enjoyed a good joke.

Congressman Hall was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Ellen Murphy Hall; sister, Rosemary Hall Scott; and brother, Hugh Hall. He is survived by his three sons—Hamp, Brett, and Blakeley Hall—and many wonderful grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire Texas congressional delegation, I would like to pay respects to Congressman Hall for a life dedicated to his family, his country, and his constituents. The Texas community will miss him dearly, and we will be presenting Congressman Hall's family with a flag that was flown over the Capitol today.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE HONORABLE RALPH HALL

(Mr. RATCLIFFE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Speaker, at age 19, Ralph Hall jumped at the chance to join the Navy, to fly Hellcat fighters during World War II in defense of this Nation. Seventy years later, at the age of 89, he jumped again out of an airplane to honor America's veterans on Memorial Day.

At age 11, Ralph Hall was working at the Rockwall, Texas, drugstore when he served two Coca-Colas, two packs of Old Gold cigarettes, and a stack of newspapers to two customers known simply to the rest of the world as Bonnie and Clyde. Eighty years later, at the age of 91, Ralph was still working and serving the folks in Rockwall, in north Texas, as the oldest Member ever to cast a vote in the history of the House of Representatives.

From beginning to end, Ralph Hall lived one of the most extraordinary and remarkable lives of anyone ever to serve in Congress.

In his 34 years in this Chamber, Ralph spent some of his time sitting over here as a Blue Dog Democrat. For some of his time he spent it sitting over there as a conservative Republican. Ralph liked to joke that was because "the Republicans never much wanted me, and the Democrats never much liked me." Neither of those was true, but it was that self-deprecating humor that made Ralph Hall beloved to everyone who knew him.

In the Science, Space, and Technology Committee room, Ralph Hall's picture hangs alongside other past chairmen. But Ralph was the only chairman to have Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, Gene Cernan, and every then-living Apollo-era astronaut come to his home to celebrate one of his birthdays. When asked why, Neil Armstrong, the

first man on the Moon, who famously took a giant leap for mankind, said it was because Ralph Hall was a giant to our space program. Ralph Hall, he said, was a giant among men.

Mr. Speaker, to those on the floor who knew Ralph Hall, thank you for allowing me to remember him for the Representative that he truly was. And for those of you who did not have the privilege of serving with Ralph Hall, thank you for letting me remember the man who was the kind of Representative that we should all hope to be.

When Ralph Hall passed away last Thursday at the age of 95, he left this Earth, went right past the Moon—and our loss became Heaven's gain.

Godspeed, Ralph Hall.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask all Members to rise and observe a moment of silence to honor the extraordinary life of Congressman Ralph Hall.

□ 1915

TRANSPARENCY IS CRITICAL

(Mr. GOTTHEIMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I first want to thank Chairwoman WATERS and Congressman LUCAS for working together on the Federal Reserve Supervision Testimony Clarification Act, which the House passed earlier today.

Transparency is critical, and my bipartisan bill requires that Congress receives regular testimony regarding supervisory matters at the Federal Reserve Board. Congress has a clear responsibility to ensure that the Federal Reserve is operating in the best interests of the American taxpayer, and this bill will do just that.

New Jerseyans deserve to know how the Fed is regulating our financial institutions, and Congress needs to know how it can cut red tape and grow our economy. But we can't do that if the Fed doesn't come to testify on its supervisory work.

My bill will help boost government transparency and accountability for the benefit of north Jersey and the rest of the country.

HONORING BRYSON WATKINS

(Mr. BURCHETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Bryson Watkins, a 13-year-old from Lenoir City in the Second Congressional District of Tennessee, for his selflessness and quick thinking.

On February 13, Bryson saved another young man's life after receiving a message through social media. Bryson sprinted to inform a sheriff's deputy, and together, they initiated a response by law enforcement.

In the aftermath of the event, Loudon County Sheriff Tim Guider

honored Bryson with the Sheriff's Citizen Lifesaving Award.

On behalf of the Second District, I extend my appreciation for Bryson's actions. We should recognize Bryson for his integrity, compassion, and maturity. Not many 13-year-olds, Mr. Speaker, have the wherewithal to encounter a crisis situation and act so responsibly. He acted quickly and appropriately.

Bryson's leadership in this situation speaks volumes of the values that his parents had instilled in him and the community in which he was raised.

His ability to work with local law enforcement is also a tribute to the dedication of the Loudon County Sheriff's Department, Mr. Speaker, and I thank them all for their commitment to the community.

HONORING BARD HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE PROGRAM

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Bard High School Early College science faculty for their work to advance science, technology, engineering, and math programs for their students.

Earlier this year, one of their teachers, Maria Agapito, was only 1 of 35 science teachers in the country who was selected by the Society for Science and the Public to receive a \$1,000 grant.

Ms. Agapito and other science teachers will be using this grant to create a multiyear science program for student research. They will be able to use the funds to help buy equipment and materials, and for student projects.

Science teachers at Bard and public schools across the country are doing great things to help their students prepare for an increasingly technological future.

I am proud to represent such bright students and passionate educators.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all of America's teachers in this country and wish them continued success.

RATIFY NEWLY NEGOTIATED USMCA

(Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, since it is National Agriculture Week, I thought I would highlight how important market access is to South Dakota.

Now, the numbers don't lie. South Dakota is our Nation's 10th largest ag exporting State. In fact, we send out \$4 billion of ag products every single year.

NAFTA deserves a lot of credit for that. In fact, our Nation at large exports more than \$38 billion every year to Canada and Mexico.

We need to keep that momentum going, which is why this body needs to

ratify the newly negotiated United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement.

USMCA is clearly better than NAFTA was. Let's be clear: That doesn't mean that it is perfect, but it does mean that it is clearly better for our country.

President Trump and his administration have made a number of much-needed improvements to that trading agreement. Let's send a clear message that the United States and South Dakota are open for business.

Mr. Speaker, let's get to work.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL WOMEN VETERANS RECOGNITION WEEK

(Mr. LAWSON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAWSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express support for a resolution I filed to honor the heroic women who have dedicated themselves to serving our country with devotion and distinction by designating March 10 through March 16 as National Women Veterans Recognition Week. This observance would celebrate the achievement of our female veterans and raise awareness to the unique challenges they face.

Women are now the fastest growing segment of the veteran community. Approximately 2 million women in the United States are veterans.

Florida hosts the Nation's largest segment of population of women veterans, especially in Duval County, in my district, which has the largest number of female veterans in the State.

I want to take this time to recognize one of my distinguished staffers, Sherry Barfield, who was recently recognized as one of the Northeast Florida Women Veterans Center's 2019 Women Who Rock.

HONORING CARLTON GILL

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Mr. Carlton Gill, who passed away on February 18 at the age of 78.

His friends remember Mr. Gill as a man of many talents and an institution in his hometown of Richmond Hill. Both of these statements help to sum up Mr. Gill but only serve to remind us of a portion of his character.

A formidable figure who played basketball at both Georgia Southern University and the University of Georgia, his many talents included working as a procurement forester at S.A. Allen for nearly 40 years, serving as a Bryan County commissioner for five terms, worshipping at Compassion Christian Church as a deacon, and much more.

For his work in guiding Richmond Hill through periods of significant growth, a nearby section of I-95 is named in his honor.

Others, though, will remember his imposing stature and the respect he commanded when entering the room. But he never wavered in his ability to be fair and honest, and to treat everyone with that same level of respect. A great leader of his community, Mr. Gill will be missed.

His family and friends are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

VISION OF NATION CRAFTED IN BUDGET

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, every year, the vision of this Nation is crafted in the budget that is offered either by the President or the United States Congress.

As a member of the Budget Committee, I am delighted that our theme will be "For the People." But today, sadly, I think it is important to note that the President offered a budget that disregarded the American people: \$2.7 trillion in spending cuts coming from the very bases that make America the greatest country in the world; 12 percent cutting in education, your children's education; 12 percent cutting healthcare from the Department of Health and Human Services; 11 percent cutting from Interior, your parks and museums and monuments; 23 percent cutting from diplomacy, from the State Department and international health; 32 percent from the Environmental Protection Agency, the quality of water and air; and 22 percent to decrease mobility in this Nation, all these dollars coming from what we call domestic spending, with increased spending in other areas where individuals are not protected.

We will protect the people. The For the People budget will be designed by Democrats.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR GENERAL MICHAEL A. CALHOUN

(Mr. RUTHERFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments and the retirement of Major General Michael A. Calhoun, who has faithfully served America for over 40 years in numerous capacities, but most recently as Florida's Adjutant General for the last 4 years.

General Calhoun began his service as a private in 1977, and then he secured his commission in the Medical Service Corps. Throughout his distinguished career, he has served at every level of command in the State and was deployed overseas in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, earning the respect and confidence of all under his command.

During his time as Adjutant General, he responded to five named storms that

impacted the State of Florida, one of which resulted in the largest mobilization of Florida guardsmen in the State's history.

It was during that time that I had the privilege of personally working extensively with General Calhoun, and I can personally attest to his commitment to excellence and to the people of the State of Florida.

Despite the rapid pace of operations over the past 4 years, General Calhoun never lost sight of his mission.

Mr. Speaker, I thank him for his selfless leadership and service, and I wish him and his wife, Sophia, the best in their retirement. A grateful State and Nation say thank you.

□ 1930

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE WORK

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to serve on the Judiciary Committee in the House and be the chairman of the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Subcommittee.

I want to report to the American people that we passed out H.R. 1 that helps clean up corruption in our government, makes our government more transparent, makes voting easier and open to more people, and does other improvements the American people want.

We also passed out H.R. 8, the first gun reform bill in over 20 years that says you have to have background checks on all sales.

This week, we will be marking up the Violence Against Women Act. Hopefully, we will have bipartisan support for that.

We will also have a hearing on renewing the Voting Rights Act that never should have been discarded by the Supreme Court. We will be having hearings to get the Voting Rights Act back on the law books in the United States.

And our subcommittee had a hearing last week on the President's powers on emergency actions. We have bipartisan agreement that we need to reform that bill and will work together in a bipartisan fashion.

HONORING PRIVATE FIRST-CLASS ELIZABETH JOHNSON

(Ms. FOXX of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, during Women's History Month, we honor American women whose exemplary lives have shaped the country we love.

In 1945, Private First-Class Elizabeth Johnson of Elkin, North Carolina, answered the call to serve our country, becoming one of 855 women to form the 6888th battalion, the first and only all-female and all-Black battalion in World War II.

They were given the task of delivering, in 1 year, a backlog of 1 year's

worth of servicemembers' mail waiting to be delivered. But with their strong dedication, in just 6 months, all letters were delivered to servicemembers waiting to hear from loved ones.

After a tour of duty in England and France, Ms. Johnson became the first woman to attend Winston-Salem State University on the GI Bill and dedicated over 30 years to teaching in Virginia and North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and thank Ms. Johnson for her legacy of lifelong service to fellow Americans.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK

(Mr. HAGEDORN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAGEDORN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize National Agriculture Week.

I grew up on a grain and livestock farm just outside of Truman, Minnesota, and have a deep appreciation for agriculture and all it does for our rural communities. Our ag-based economy is so critically important to our Nation and, of course, the State of Minnesota and southern Minnesota, which is our First District.

The people in southern Minnesota really appreciate our ag producers, our ag processors, our ag equipment dealers, and all the rest. I can tell you that in Minnesota's First District, one of the top crop and livestock districts in all the country, we actually were number two for hogs in the entire Nation.

Our First District is home to nearly 20,000 farmers. Considering that each farm produces enough food to feed about 165 people, the reach of our farmers goes throughout the United States and all around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to commemorating and talking about the value of agriculture and our farmers during this week and throughout this Congress.

RECOGNIZING PATRICIA SINCAVAGE

(Mr. SMUCKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, Friday was International Women's Day and, today, I rise to recognize the service of a remarkable woman in my district: Ms. Patricia Sincavage of Lititz, Pennsylvania.

Ms. Sincavage has served as an occupational therapist at the Lebanon Veterans Affairs Medical Center since 1978. She joined the VA after graduating from Elizabethtown College. The Lebanon VA serves about 80 percent of the veterans who reside in my district.

She has spent the entirety of her professional career giving back to our veterans. Occupational therapy can assist veterans in continuing to take care of their health needs while still doing the

activities they enjoy simply by adapting or doing things differently.

Ms. Sincavage is retiring from the VA after 43 years of service. She has four children, 11 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. She has served our Nation's veterans well, and it is an honor to recognize her today.

VENEZUELA

(Mr. GAETZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, as I deliver these remarks, the people of Venezuela are without food, water, medicine, and now even electricity.

The organizing principle of American policy seems to be the need to drive Maduro from power. What if Maduro is not really in power right now? What if the people who are really calling the shots in Venezuela are a group of transnational criminal organizations that merely maintain Maduro as a figurehead? And what if their entire purpose is to draw the United States into an ill-advised war to create a massive migration of people throughout Latin America, eroding borders, jeopardizing nation-states, and ultimately leading to a permissive environment for more illicit activity to occur?

These are important questions we have to ask. My constituents have to go to Central and South America and fight these wars. And certainly, as a Congress, we need to be very critical in our thinking to not get our Nation in another ill-advised war.

MOURNING THE TRAGIC LOSS OF LIFE OF ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES CRASH

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness I rise today to mourn the tragic loss of life on Sunday morning as an Ethiopian Airlines jet carrying 157 people crashed only 6 minutes after takeoff. On board that flight were people from 35 different countries, including 8 U.S. citizens, with no survivors.

This tragedy hits close to home for those of us from northern California. Two of the eight Americans were from my own district in Shasta County.

Melvin and Bennett Riffel, two brothers from Redding, California, were embarking upon an adventure that had already taken them through Australia and Mogadishu before they arrived in Ethiopia. It has been said that this was their last trip together before Melvin was set to become a father, together with his wife Brittney, who had only recently returned home.

Our friends and neighbors in northern California share in the sadness and grief that we all feel for their families, and for all of the families who lost loved ones that day on that plane.

As we await more information on exactly what went wrong, please join me in praying for Melvin and Bennett, their families, and all the others who boarded that fateful flight that day.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF WEST POINT ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to be joined by my colleagues who graduated from West Point, our alma mater, and our colleague, who represents the West Point community and the area.

Why are we talking about the academy today? Well, we are close to what we call our Founders Day, which is March 17, but this is also a special year. It is the 150th anniversary of the Association of Graduates, which keeps the alumni informed and connected with our alma mater.

The 150th anniversary will be May 22, 2019, so we thought we would come down to the floor to talk about the experience and the importance of the military academies—of course, West Point being the oldest and the best—to our Nation and its security.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY), from Hudson Valley, who represents West Point and the surrounding communities.

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the West Point Association of Graduates.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the cadets, faculty, Active Duty soldiers, and the many alumni of the United States military academy at West Point in New York's Hudson Valley. In fact, I live right across the river, and I hear the cannon every morning and every night. It is a wonderful way to wake up and go to bed.

Just take a few steps on the grounds at West Point and it will be clear to you that West Point is much more than a school. It is a community of devotion made up of the best and brightest of our Nation's past, our Nation's present, and our Nation's future.

Think of the legends and heroes who have graduated from West Point. Such a pantheon clearly deserves more than a run-of-the-mill alumni association. Accordingly, the West Point Association of Graduates has fulfilled that need. It goes above and beyond, and it deserves the recognition we are giving it tonight.

I want to thank my friend, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS), a member of the association himself, for leading this Special Order to honor the organization for the services and fellowship opportunities it provides to graduates of all ages.

Our country's premier military academy has produced generations of leaders in all fields, including 2 U.S. Presidents, 18 astronauts, 19 Rhodes scholars, 76 Medal of Honor winners, and countless numbers of the Fortune 500 CEO's list, Cabinet secretaries, Governors, Senators, and, for those who didn't do very well, Members of Congress.

These men and women are connected by "The Long Grey Line," the affectionate reference to the unique ties that bind all graduates. They are linked by their commitment to living and, at times, even dying in service of the motto "Duty, Honor, Country."

But they are also connected through the tireless work of an exemplary alumni association. For 150 years, the West Point Association of Graduates has fostered these connections by allowing generations of graduates to grip hands with one another.

In some ways, the association is like other alumni associations, but like all things West Point, it is much more. The association provides mentorship and fellowship for younger alums, but often these alums are also returning veterans who need a hand when they come back.

It supports local chapters across the country and around the world. But for a group as far-flung as West Point grads, these connections give graduates a sense of community when they are far from home.

It also helps graduates who have been hurt by hurricanes, tornadoes, fires, and other natural disasters.

And it even offers a professional memorial services coordinator to help grieving families navigate the funeral process at West Point when that difficult time arrives.

These are the kind of people who make up The Long Grey Line in the West Point Association of Graduates. They are fiercely committed to our country and to each other.

During times of division, West Point graduates still rally around their shared values and experiences to build bridges and remind all of us what it is to be an American.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the West Point Association of Graduates for 150 years of connecting distinguished alumni and providing a helping hand to folks in need. I thank them for their service, and here is to another 150 years.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for doing that great summation, because I brought my colleagues down here and they are probably going to talk a little bit more about the micro aspects of classes, friends, and experiences over the years. But I do appreciate the gentleman's work for and support of West Point and the community. And I know he will always be a good steward of the campus, the cadets, the staff, and the faculty, so I thank him for coming down.

Mr. Speaker, usually, we manage things here in the House by seniority

based upon, again, elected Congress. But at West Point, it is a very competitive institution, and our seniority is based upon the graduation class. So I am going to turn things upside down here on the floor and go by seniority, which means one of our newly elected Members of Congress will get a chance to speak first.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, in 1781, General George Washington called the fortifications at West Point the most important post in America. Holding West Point meant preventing the British from dividing the Nation along the Hudson River Valley.

Following the war, President Washington made numerous efforts to create a military academy. His actual first effort was within a year of becoming the Commander in Chief. However, it fell to Thomas Jefferson to get it done and, in 1802, the United States Military Academy at West Point was founded as the Nation's school to teach the art and science of warfare.

Since its inception, West Point graduates have served to preserve our Nation's freedom in battle. From the Mexican wars to the war on terror, West Point graduates have sacrificed their lives and their youth to win our Nation's wars.

Off the battlefield, West Point graduates have served at the very highest levels of the U.S. military as legislators, Cabinet secretaries, Governors, Presidents, and CEOs leading the development of our Nation's infrastructure and the establishment of the world's greatest economy.

□ 1945

For young people who choose West Point over a traditional education, it is truly a different path.

From the moment you start in Beast Barracks, a cadet lives by the code of conduct of the military officer, recognizing that their life becomes second to the safety of Americans.

Almost 100 West Point graduates have given their lives in this most recent war. It is that commitment to the Nation made at such a young age that makes the place so special.

What sets West Point as an institution apart is just about everything that happens there: the grueling academics; the compulsory participation in sports; the military drill; the military training; and perhaps most noteworthy, the leadership and character development. West Point even uses our math classes to teach cadets how to present themselves and to hone their military bearing.

But for me, what took my experience at West Point to the next level were the men and women who made up my class, the class of 1986.

Our motto is "Courage Never Quits, '86."

We came to West Point from all over the country, men and women from every State, nearly every religion,

every ethnic origin; and we came together as one team fighting to get through the Academy's rigorous education. Almost one-third who started our class left before graduating.

Over the years, we celebrated together, served in the Army together. Many left the military to serve elsewhere in government and business. But each of us has tried to live by that motto, "Courage Never Quits," and boy, have we.

Our class has produced 18 general officers: four 3-star generals; we have no 4-stars yet because we haven't been out of the Academy long enough; in addition, we have nine 2-stars and six 1-star generals.

Our class produced a Secretary of State, a Secretary of the Army. Two of us have served in Congress, one of whom went on to be the Director of the CIA and, of course, Secretary of State.

We have had at least two State legislators. Three judges come from our ranks, as well as at least four deans and chancellors of universities.

We have served at senior levels throughout the government, from the Department of State to the FBI, to the leadership of the Defense Logistics Agency, to consultants to Presidents of the United States.

Twenty-two-plus members of my class are presidents and CEOs of major corporations, from 7-Eleven to Mercedes-Benz USA.

And, yes, we, too, have had those in our ranks make the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. Be thou at peace.

More than anything, more than just the amazing location on the Hudson River, more than the unparalleled history of the place, more than the grueling academics, more than its unbelievable place in our Nation's great story, what pushes me to serve is the knowledge of what my peers have accomplished. Their hard work reminds me to never stop reading, learning, growing, and serving. They are my motivation, and they are why I will never quit.

Rangers Lead The Way.

Night Stalkers Don't Quit.

Courage Never Quits, '86.

Go Army. Beat Navy.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, and I appreciate his service in uniform and, of course, here on the floor. We are happy to have him here.

Next, I yield to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE), almost my neighbor on the North American continent.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, my motto as the class of '87: Our Country We Strengthen, '87.

It is great to be here, and I want to start with a story.

After I went through the Academy, graduated from West Point, spent time in the 101st Airborne Division, I decided to do something different with my life and went into business. I went to business school. I was in New England in business school.

One time, I was driving back from a visit to Franklin Roosevelt's home on the Hudson River and was at a grocery store—Stew Leonard's, some people know from Danbury, Connecticut. I was standing outside with a kid, and a guy walks by, and he says: Well, Kentucky plates. What are you doing here in Connecticut?

I said: Well, I am up here in graduate school, and we just went to Franklin Roosevelt's home. I just love the Hudson River. The Hudson Valley is just stunningly beautiful.

The guy looked at me. He didn't know my background, didn't know who I was. So he said: Well, if you love the Hudson River, let me suggest you ought to spend a weekend at West Point. Let me suggest you go on Saturday, on a football Saturday, because you are not going to believe this, but they actually go to class on Saturday.

I said: Are you kidding me? I mean, people actually go to a school that goes to class on Saturday?

And he said: Yeah. And then they have a parade, and all the cadets are standing—and I didn't have the heart to tell them, tell him we were telling jokes to each other, and said—look pristine, you know, from 100 yards away.

But he went through the day at West Point, and he walked through it. And he said a picnic and tailgating and football, and all the great stuff and the fun times you have here. But you do have good times even though you have very difficult times.

And when he finally finished, I didn't have the heart to tell him the truth and tell him the story. So as soon as he finished, I just looked at him and said: I have always heard about West Point, and I have always heard this: "It is a great place to visit, but you wouldn't want to live there."

And the reason that you wouldn't want to live there is because it is tough. It is hard. It is not something you can do just simply. It is something you sacrifice for and you move towards.

One of my great thrills is you get to nominate people who attend our academies—all of our academies—and to call them and tell them when they have received an appointment.

I just talked to a young man this week, he is going to West Point, and a couple, unfortunately, to the Navy—but a couple at West Point and a couple at the Air Force Academy. They are deciding to do something big and different with their lives than their classmates.

But I want to talk about, just real briefly, you do run across some great people.

I always say the reason that H. R. McMaster was probably, I think, the greatest soldier of our generation is his very first challenge was teaching me how to march correctly. He was my squad leader at Beast Barracks, and I was a challenge to him, I am sure, so his first leadership challenge.

We heard my previous speaker talk about his classmates, Mark Esper, who was in my company and now Secretary of the Army; got to serve on Energy and Commerce with Mike Pompeo, now Secretary of State.

My class actually entered West Point in 1983, so I got my appointment in February of '83. In March of '83, Ronald Reagan gave his speech in Orlando, Florida, about the evil empire, and then during my time in the 101st, the Berlin Wall came down. So I literally served from the evil empire to the fall of the Berlin Wall.

A lot of my classmates—me being one of them, and this shows what a great prognosticator I am—and all of us thought the Army was going to be boring for the next 20 years. And, man, my prayers that that was absolutely—would have come true, but it wasn't.

So my commemoration today is a lot of my classmates did leave the Army in the early nineties. Those who spent time in a career—whether 20 years, 30 years, some still serving—they really have sacrificed for this country more than I could ever imagine.

My one experience with it as a Member of Congress—not as a combat soldier, but a Member of Congress—I took my first trip into a combat zone to Iraq. I remember sitting in the headquarters waiting for General Barbero to come give us a briefing, and an '06 colonel comes walking in. Some of us may know because he did congressional affairs after this.

It was Joe Simonelli, who was a big, blustery, great guy who served, just kind of a leader of our class. And he comes walking in, and it just struck me that he has been doing this for the last—then it would have been the last almost 20 years, spending half of his life going overseas to serve our country. I was just there for a day and a half and was ready to get home, and he was there for a year. It just struck me.

So my hat is off to my classmates—and not to just people who graduated from West Point, but every man and woman who has the courage and the conviction and the strength and everything about them to put on our uniform. And every single one of them, every single person serving in our uniform volunteered to do so. It is just amazing that we have young men and women like that.

So my hat is off for my classmates because we are talking about our time at West Point, those who served 20 and 30 years, who have made a difference for this country and have sacrificed like no other has over the course of time.

We have, certainly, people in more combat-type style conflicts, but I would dare say, in the history of our country, a group of people who graduated the time that we have have not spent more time in active combat back and forth.

Mr. Speaker, my hat is off to them. They are my brothers and sisters. I love them dearly, and I appreciate their service.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for his comments.

I think what Congressman GUTHRIE has said, article II of the Association of Graduates Constitution, states the object of this association shall be to cherish the memories of our alma mater and to promote the social intercourse and fraternal fellowship of its graduates, and I think we are seeing that tonight.

You see some snickering and some guffawing, and I think we all get transported back in time. In fact, in preparing for this, I did like Congressman GREEN and got a list of my classmates and then started working on notes on Friday night and Saturday. I am telling you, I had nightmares on Saturday night; I had nightmares on Sunday because that experience was brought back to life for me, which I cherished.

I am now happy to yield to the gentleman from Ohio, Congressman DAVIDSON.

Before I turn it all over to him, one of the benefits that the academies do, and West Point does, is just doesn't get what they consider the brightest and the best in our secondary education system, but they make sure that they reach into our active military forces and find those young men and women who are showing to their chain of command exceptional opportunity with a chance to promote and become an officer. Congressman DAVIDSON is one of those, and that is why I yield to him, the class of '95.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank this body for the opportunity to recognize our alma mater and our Association of Graduates at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

As Mr. SHIMKUS was highlighting, I didn't come the easy way. As a friend of mine likes to say, sometimes God will bring you the easiest way you will go.

For me, my journey to West Point started in my high school guidance counselor's classroom in September of senior year. Most people realize that is kind of a late start for the path that it takes to go to one of our Nation's service academies.

And then she asked me what I wanted to do, and I said: Well, I want to be an Army ranger.

She said: Well, you know, you are pretty smart. You should go to college. You should consider college, at least.

I said: Well, you know, I thought about going to West Point. Then I could be in the Army and go to college.

She looked at me like she felt sorry for me. She said: Well, baby, that is not going to happen.

That wasn't mean; it was realistic. I had not done the work that it would take to get there.

She walked me through who normally gets in: The salutatorians, the valedictorians, the people with the high GPAs while being captain of sports, Eagle Scouts, and what not. I

recognized some of my classmates who had been on that path, and I recognized that that is not the path that I had been on. No one in my family on my dad's side had gone to college.

So she told me: You should work on some other plans.

So I did them. I enlisted in the Army. And when I got to the Army, thankfully, some of BRETT GUTHRIE's classmates, 1987 graduates Larry Bradley and Terry Finley, were platoon leaders.

Larry Bradley ended up being my platoon leader for a composite platoon that got training by the 10th Special Forces Group down in Bad Tolz, Germany. And it was there, during that platoon, that I learned that the Berlin Wall had come down, that it wasn't part of the training, it wasn't just a jazzy intro to a speech.

Some noncommissioned officers stepped up and said: Write this day down. It is going to be one of the most famous days in history, 9 November 1989.

We thought: Bold intro.

But from that, I had a chance to do something unbelievable that was the culmination not just of graduates of the United States Military Academy, but the culmination of people who had fought to win that war. So many of them West Point graduates, like Eisenhower, like Bradley, like Patton, who helped liberate a people in that continent.

But I got to see the culmination of that as the wall came down not because Mr. Gorbachev tore it down or Mr. Reagan tore it down, but because the East German people found out what was on the other side of it, and they tore their own wall down. And they found out that the fruits of our ideology had produced shockingly different results than what their ideology had produced.

□ 2000

It is shocking today to think that we might relive some of those bad choices that led to poverty and scarcity on the other side of the wall while our ideas led to abundance and flourishing, not perfectly, but far superior.

From there, I went to the prep school, and I met classmates like Ranger Bill Lynn. His first unit deployment led him to jump into Panama, and he had a combat jump there. I met classmates at the prep school who didn't make it to West Point. Indeed, one of my 1995 classmates is currently the commandant of the United States Military Academy Preparatory School.

It is a great path, but I also met people who had not been in the Army. I met people who had come there to increase the diversity objectives of the Military Academy, who needed a little more strength on their academics or maybe who needed to balance the academics with the athletics that they were going to be able to participate in. That was about half the class.

I learned about a special club at West Point shortly after I came called the

Two-Percent Club, and I met my wife. The Two-Percent Club, for those who don't know, are those who start with a girlfriend and graduate with the same girlfriend and end up marrying that girl. I am thankful today that I am married to my Lisa. People would talk about Lisa this, and Lisa that, but I would always refer to my Lisa, the girl who chose to marry me.

We experienced cadet life in a different way. We have all these memories of things like the cadet in the red sash stepping up to the line, but not on the line or over the line. We remember things like Beast Barracks in Buckner, Boodlers runs, spinning the spurs. We remember the honor code and the character that was so prominently featured there, that, "A cadet will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor tolerate those who do."

We remember how hard it was to live with the consequences for people who made those bad decisions, who you knew to be good people, who came to be separated because it was taken very seriously there.

We saw in the cadet parades that we talked about on the parade fields The Long Gray Line for the ceremonies where they would lay a wreath for Founders Day at the statue of Colonel Sylvanus Thayer. You would see men and women in uniform, but you would see senior citizens at the front of the line.

The oldest graduate would lay the wreath—often in a wheelchair, feebly mustering every ounce of strength necessary sometimes to move from that chair to lay that wreath with pride at the statue in front of the sup's house.

We remember the million-dollar view at Trophy Point, and we remember the quarter-million-dollar education one nickel at a time as we studied.

We remember friends and classmates who helped us through the hard times. We remember the knowledge like duty, honor, country, or Schofield's Definition of Discipline.

We remember the seriousness with which nearly every one of us took the opportunity to be prepared, should the case arise that we would lead our Nation's young men and women in combat, that we would be ready to face the challenge. Many of my classmates did that.

I served 5 years in great units, the Old Guard, the 101st Airborne Division, and the 75th Ranger Regiment. I left Active Duty, which shocked many of my classmates, and I found a great sense of purpose, that to give a lifetime of service to the Nation didn't always mean in uniform. But you still look in awe at the sacrifice that so many have made who continued on in Active Duty, especially those who gave the last full measure to keep our Nation free and to bring honor to The Long Gray Line.

Today, as I look at young men and women and have the privilege of calling them and congratulating them on all of the work that it takes to do it—generally, the right way—the advanced

knowledge and the preparation—the more common way—the disciplined path that started earlier in life, I am encouraged because there are so many talented young men and women who still want to put on our Nation's uniform to make sure that our Nation is made and kept free with an all-volunteer force committed to serve our country.

I look at The Long Gray Line today, a line that is a very tight-knit alumni organization where friends could be distant for years, even decades, and, in a moment, connect as if you just finished playing spades with one another after hours, ditching the late-lights penalties.

I look forward to those times. I cherish those memories. And I am so thankful to the West Point Association of Graduates, which has set a great example of how to bond classmates together to serve the cause and interest of our great alma mater so that this Long Gray Line may continue to flourish always.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for joining us tonight. He makes me think of a lot of things.

I want to make sure that we don't forget the staff and faculty, the Department of Army civilians, and the spouses and the families who make up the whole West Point experience.

A lot of times, staff and faculty will adopt a cadet to be their family while they are away. I am from Illinois, and New York was a pretty long distance. I was fortunate to be, in essence, adopted by Colonel Woodard and Mary Ellen Woodard. They were my pseudo family there, and, boy, did I need it. That was kind of joked about.

I also remember going and visiting many times instructors after hours on a program we called additional instruction. I thought I was smart in high school. I found out in college-level engineering school, I wasn't as smart as I thought I was. I needed a lot of assistance to get through the academic program there, so I appreciated it.

Many of those staff and faculty teachers were West Point graduates, so they not only had the book learning, but they knew the experience we were all going through.

I brought down my yearbook and paged through it. General Omar Bradley attended our graduation, which shows you the length, depth, and width of The Long Gray Line. It was a special time to be able to see that connection.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. WATKINS), our most junior graduate—maybe we would call him a plebe in our lexicon—but a freshman Member of Congress.

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Duty, honor, country. The United States possesses the greatest military in the history of mankind, and it isn't even close. How is that possible since, through the ages, warfare changes, our enemies change, the geography changes, the ideology that we are up against changes.

I would contest that the reason we consistently win our Nation's wars is because our greatest attribute never does change. Those are the values that we hold dear. It is the leadership principles that every graduate of the United States Military Academy learns.

How on Earth could that be encapsulated? The best I could hope for is to call on General MacArthur, who in 1962, to the United States Corps of Cadets, said: "Duty, honor, country: Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be. They are your rallying point to build courage when courage seems to fail, to regain faith when there seems to be little cause for faith, to create hope when hope becomes forlorn."

The United States Military Academy has a sacred place in my heart, to the class of 1999, with duty in mind. I want to thank God for West Point. I want to thank The Long Gray Line. And God bless you USMA, my rockbound highland home.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for joining us tonight.

We have people who watch and participate in the Army-Navy games. There is now a new kind of challenge for either the midshipmen or the Corps of Cadets, and it is a fight to see who sings second. If you watch the Army-Navy game, at the end, after a tremendous battle on the field of friendly strife, both sides will join together on each side, and they will listen as the alma maters are sung. The goal is to be the one who gets to sing second, because that means that you have won the football game.

I would like to read the alma mater of West Point.

Hail, Alma Mater dear,
To us be ever near.
Help us thy motto bear
Through all the years.
Let Duty be well performed.
Honor be e'er untarned
Country be ever armed.
West Point, by thee.
Guide us, thine own, aright
Teach us by day, by night,
To keep thine honor bright,
For thee to fight.
When we depart from thee,
Serving on land or sea,
May we stand loyal be,
West Point, to thee
And when our work is done,
Our course on earth is run,
May it be said, "Well done"
Be thou at peace."
E'er may that line of gray
Increase from day to day
Live, serve, and die, we pray,
West Point, for thee.

I want to talk about my class, the class of 1980, a little bit. They are now mostly part of that Long Gray Line. We have some still on Active Duty, but they are leaving soon, and they have served faithfully over the years.

Folks will recognize some of these names. Our motto was "Pride and Excellence." These are the statistics I got from AOG. We all know that there is

garbage in, garbage out, so some of my classmates are not updating their records. They may not be 100 percent accurate, but the numbers are pretty good.

We graduated with 902. We think there are 23 who are deceased.

We graduated 62 women. These are the pioneers. This is the first class of women who graduated from West Point. They are very close. I talk with many of them frequently, and we are all very proud of them. It was not easy for these women, as you can imagine, in an all-male institution, and they are a tribute to our class.

We have four four-star generals or officers. Two recently retired, Brooks and Perkins. We still have Thomas, who is the commander of Special Operations Command, and Votel, who is commander at CENTCOM. They are both retiring soon.

We had six lieutenant generals, Donohue, Cheek, Hodges, Lanza, Chipman, and Linnington, and they are retired.

We had eight major generals and nine brigadier generals, the one stars. I want to note Brigadier General Retired Anne MacDonald who, for our women classmates, rose to the highest ranks of military service.

We have religious leaders in our class, pastors, chaplains, deacons. One that I like to always catch up with and follow is Nancy Gucwa, who is a Benedictine Sister, Nancy Rose Gucwa, who retired as lieutenant colonel and then became a nun.

□ 2015

We have medical doctors, and we have university professors. I would also like to highlight Jeff Williams, our astronaut who has spent more time in space as a guide of the United States NASA program. Now there is a female astronaut who just surpassed him, but he has been in space quite a bit, and we are very, very proud of him.

I think what is also interesting is that people talk about the military academies and these institutions as the proverbial return on investment. I think my colleagues have talked about the selfless service of their classmates and the people they have met. I think the interesting thing that I came upon in just going over some data from my class is we know that every graduate, for the most part, goes to serve in Active Duty, and the desire is for a 20-year service at a minimum. But a lot of people choose not to do that. I think what surprised me was how many people picked up the mantle in other branches of service or in the Reserve program. So out of the 902, I think about 422 retired from military service, that is getting close to 50 percent.

What are those?

That is, obviously, the United States Army, the United States Army Reserve, and the United States Army National Guard. We had a couple retired from the Air Force, and we had one retire, I think from the Coast Guard. So

selfless service, even as a part-time, and those who follow the military today, if you are in the Reserves or you are in the Guard, you are working, and you can be deployed. It is not a week-end warrior status anymore. They are part of the total military force.

We also have published authors, college professors, master level, world-class athletes, and even an artist. Some of our classmates now have their children who are already graduates, who already served their time and are already out of the service, so generation after generation of families. That is just an example of one of our classes.

The Association of Graduates does a good job, as was noted here, trying to keep us connected to our alma mater. We have folks that come, not only from every one of the 50 States based on the way the nomination process goes, but we also have folks from foreign countries who are invited to serve and go through the program, and that is the unity the association of graduates attempts to do.

So this night was spent to really accomplish two things: one, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Association of Graduates whose goal was to keep these bonds of friendship and keep reminding us of the goal of duty, honor, country.

Another part was to thank our classmates who have served with us, who help get us through the 4 years of training in the program, thanks to staff and faculty, thanks to the Department of Army Civilians, thanks to maintainers to allow us—really we should thank the national government for continuing to support the great institutions of higher military learning and training like West Point, Annapolis, the Air Force Academy, the Merchant Marine Academy, and the Coast Guard Academy.

I am going to end with the end of the Douglas MacArthur speech. Congressman WATKINS read the first part. I was going to read that too because it is one of my favorites.

I will end on this, Mr. Speaker. This is the end of the speech General Douglas MacArthur gave to the Corps of Cadets: “But in the evening of my memory, always I come back to West Point. Always there echoes and re-echoes: Duty, Honor, Country. Today marks my final roll call with you, but I want you to know that when I cross the river my last conscious thoughts will be of The Corps, and The Corps, and The Corps. I bid you farewell.”

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Speaker for the opportunity. We cer-

tainly appreciate the esteemed institution that is West Point. May I also say that the United States Marines are also a great institution, and I want to thank the Speaker for his service in Afghanistan and in Iraq as well.

RECOGNIZING MELINDA JONES WILLIAMS

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I want to recognize Melinda Jones Williams.

Melinda Jones Williams, a civil rights activist, was born March 14, 1950, in Americus, Georgia. She is currently a resident of Haines City, Florida, with one child, Jeffrey Jones.

In July, 1963, Melinda Jones Williams was one of 15 young Black girls with a passion to change the bigotry and divisiveness in Americus, Georgia, by protesting a strong force of generational racism. During a peaceful protest, she was arrested along with 14 other young girls. These girls were all stolen, hidden from their parents, and locked in an abandoned building for over a month. There were no windows, toilets, and no source of water.

This was their punishment for protesting a segregated movie theater. Melinda Jones Williams is one of the few remaining survivors of the Stolen Girls of Americus, Georgia.

For that and her heroism in the civil rights movement, we thank you, Ms. Jones Williams.

RECOGNIZING CHARLIE REED

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I want to recognize Charlie Reed.

She was born and raised in Kissimmee, Florida, my hometown. She was the first in her family to graduate from college with a degree in journalism from the University of Florida in 1997. She has worked at the Orlando Sentinel, Osceola News-Gazette, and Treasure Coast Newspapers. While working for the Stars and Stripes newspaper, she has covered international defense, geopolitics, and the U.S. military community.

After a reporting trip to Vietnam, Charlie moved there to do volunteer work and write about Vietnam veterans living in the place where they fought a war so many years before. While living in Vietnam, she was named editor for an English-language Vietnamese magazine and worked closely with several NGOs helping Agent Orange victims and impoverished children.

Charlie came back to Kissimmee in 2014 to reconnect with her Florida roots. It was a homecoming that led her back to the staff at the Osceola News-Gazette. As a seasoned journalist who has lived around the world, Charlie knows no stranger. Her ability to connect with people and understand their problems is perhaps her greatest strength. Charlie's life work is about more than chasing a story. It is about serving the community, being an advocate for the public, a voice for the voiceless and shining light on corruption. The pleasure she experiences while helping others is truly all hers.

For that, Charlie Reed, we recognize you.

RECOGNIZING JUANITA GEATHERS

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I want to recognize Juanita Geathers.

Juanita Geathers has six children and nine grandchildren with her husband, Lemuel Geathers, former mayor of Winter Haven. She has spent 34 years as an educator in Polk County schools, retiring as an assistant principal in 2004. She graduated from Jewett High School as valedictorian in 1959, went on to receive her bachelor of science degree from Rollins College and a master's in education from the University of South Florida.

Juanita served as Secretary for the Florida Democratic Party State Executive Committee and was the highest ranking African American woman during her tenure as Secretary. She also served as a Democratic National Convention delegate from Florida for three conventions.

As an active member of her community, she is a recipient of the Outstanding Community Service Award. She has served on the Polk Education Association, Polk County Opportunity Council, Polk County Voters League, Girls and Boys Club, and Girls, Inc. She is also a lifetime member of the NAACP and a member of the Hurst Chapel AME Church.

For that, Ms. Juanita Geathers, we honor you.

RECOGNIZING MONICA READUS

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I want to recognize Monica Readus.

Monica Readus is a wife, mother, business owner, and real estate professional. She was born in Detroit, Michigan.

After moving to Texas, Monica became aware of a shift in the political climate. After the 2004 Presidential race, Democrats were discouraged and Dallas Republicans were running unopposed. It was at that time that Monica took time away from the company's day-to-day operations to become a full-time volunteer for the Collin County Democratic Party office in Plano, Texas.

Since then, Monica has worked with candidates and campaign managers, coordinated grassroots efforts for local and Federal elections, and fundraised for candidates and more. In 2011 Monica moved to Florida where she immediately began coordinating grassroots efforts for Organizing for America by spearheading daily phone banks. She then joined the Democratic Women's Club of Florida of West Orange County, serving as its first president.

She now happily serves as the Democratic Women's Club of Florida Region 9 chair, serving nearly 600 members and the chair of the Annual PerSisters Rally in celebration of Democratic Women's Month.

For that, Monica Readus, we honor you.

RECOGNIZING LISA SANTONI CROMAR

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I want to recognize Lisa Santoni Cromar.

Lisa Santoni Cromar is a legally deaf Puerto Rican woman. She is the mother to two boys, Nicholas and William, and the wife to Scott Cromar. She was born in 1962 to Puerto Rican parents, Trina and Jose Santoni. Her early career was in corporate IT. At age 30, she divorced her first husband and went to work for the domestic violence agency that helped her leave. After meeting her husband, Scott, he had a friend running for Congress, which presented an opportunity to transition to political consulting and issue advocacy. She has served as voting chair and co-chair, and is now an executive board member of the Women's March of Florida.

In 2003, the longtime consequences of her Meniere's disease became unbearable, resulting in severe hearing loss. In 2016, Lisa moved to Longwood, Florida. Like everyone else in her new community, she was horrified by the Pulse nightclub shooting. The lack of family support for some of the victims combined with memories of post-9/11 days, prompted Lisa to reach out to the affected communities offering a safe place and a safe space for frightened neighbors as well as visiting victims' families.

When Hurricanes Irma and Maria worsened Puerto Rico's already delicate situation, Lisa refocused her advocacy efforts on achieving a just recovery for her islands. Lisa is currently vice president of *Diaspora en Resistencia*, an international coalition of human rights organizations working for a better future for Puerto Rico. She also sits on the steering committee for *Vamos4PR*.

For that, Lisa Santoni Cromar, we honor you.

RECOGNIZING KAREN GREEN

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I want to recognize Karen Green.

Reverend Dr. Karen R. Green, a proud Jamaican-born Caribbean American, is a former U.N. Humanitarian Religious Ambassador At Large. She is a tireless community advocate and social justice crusader fighting to enhance the rights of women, defend religious freedoms, and secure the civil liberties of immigrants.

As a resident of Florida for over 20 years, Dr. Green has leveraged her talents as a respected political strategist, campaign manager, and expert mediator. She has served as the Democratic Party's former Caribbean Coalition Director for the State of Florida and its territories. Her vast political and voter advocacy record includes service as field officer for President Barack Obama's Presidential election campaign, Coalition Director for Hillary Clinton's Presidential primary and general election campaigns, and political advance to U.S. territories.

Dr. Green has led on issues of universal healthcare, a woman's right to

choose, and immigration reform with a pathway to citizenship under DAPA and DACA as well. Dr. Green is also noted to have been instrumental on the front lines of the fight to secure in-state tuition for undocumented students living in Florida.

Dr. Green currently serves as the CEO of the Liberty and Justice for All Community Foundation and is the primary partner at Blue Fields Consultants International.

Passion for service and a strong sense of dedication to critical social issues is clearly a key motivating force for Dr. Green.

She merits these values to her Christian beliefs and cultural experiences as a Jamaican-born immigrant.

She quotes Marcus Mosiah Garvey himself, a Jamaican native and noted civil rights leader, with: "A people without the knowledge of their past history, culture, and origin is like a tree without roots."

And for that, Ms. Karen Green, we honor you.

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RECOGNIZING KIM PORTEOUS

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I want to recognize Kim Porteous.

Kim Porteous is one of many activists ignited by the modern women's movement at the March on Washington, D.C., on January 24, 2017.

She is a community organizer who is supported by a community of women. Although she has been involved in advocacy throughout her life, she knew, as a former survivor of rape, workplace sexual assaults, and domestic abuse, that she needed to make it her life's work to stand for women, sexual assault victims, the disabled, the LGBTQ community, immigrants, Dreamers, against climate change, for religious minorities, and to promote healthcare.

She is committed to amplifying the voices of marginalized communities through intersectional feminism and uniting communities regardless of their privilege.

The 2016 election led Kim to amplify her message of equality beyond her circle of friends and get out in the community to engage.

She has had the privilege of supporting organizations and community partners, including the National Organization for Women, Organize Florida, Planned Parenthood, For Our Future, ADAPT, Rubio Tuesdays, Hope House, Moms Demand Action, March for Women, and Fight for \$15 an Hour.

Kim is currently the vice president of the Greater Orlando chapter of the National Organization for Women and is focused on sustained action to achieve the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

And for that, Ms. Kim Porteous, we honor you.

RECOGNIZING RASHA MUBARAK

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I want to recognize Rasha Mubarak.

Rasha Mubarak is a Palestinian American Muslim community activist and leader who was recently named Ten People Making Orlando a Better Place to Be by the Orlando Weekly.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, and raised in the heart of central Florida, she is a current facilitator for the Trust Orlando Coalition, helping make history by passing the first TRUST Act, not only in Florida but in the Southeastern region of the United States.

Rasha also serves as a vice president for the Muslim Women's Organization. She is the president of the Young Democrats of Orange County, a media political strategist, is the president of Orlando's Palestine Children's Relief Fund.

While working in the Arab American community, she helped launch impactful programs such as Welcoming Immigrants Now Group and its domestic violence program.

A sought-after speaker about topics including Palestinian rights, Islamophobia, and women's representation in Islam, Rasha has been a grassroots organizer and speaker for statewide demonstrations and campaigns for interfaith work, Palestinian rights, and #NoMuslimBanEver, immigrant rights, and Black and Brown liberation.

Rasha leads educational panel discussions dispelling stereotypes about Muslim women.

In 2015, she cofounded Floridians Responding to Refugees, spearheading efforts to welcome and transition refugees.

She was previously a mental health counseling volunteer with the Palestine Medical Relief Society in Ramallah, aiding women and children suffering from PTSD.

And for that, Ms. Rasha Mubarak, we honor you.

RECOGNIZING NICOLETTE FARIELLO SPRINGER

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I want to recognize Nicolette Fariello Springer.

Nicolette is the sort of woman who does not fit conveniently into a mold. She is a criminologist, college educator, and a doting mother to her two daughters, Emmerson and Avery.

With a master's degree in criminal justice from the University of Central Florida, Nicolette specializes in mental health and substance abuse. She was the assistant director of the Criminal Justice Mental Health Substance Abuse Technical Assistance Center, where she focused on program evaluation and policy analysis across the State of Florida.

Nicolette's research areas include mental health court, drug court, and corrections. It is her work in criminal justice that informs her work as a community activist, championing issues around adverse childhood experiences, social justice, and access to education and healthcare.

Nicolette serves as the champion leader for central and north Florida for

the United Nations Foundation Shot@Life Campaign, which focuses on advocating for access to vaccines in the developing world.

On the local front, she co-leads a Girl Scout troop of 27 girls and gives them the opportunity to see the best in themselves.

Nicolette's activism led her to run for office during the historic Pink Wave of 2018. She parlayed her own campaign experience into a full-time position on a Democratic gubernatorial campaign and continues to advocate for progressive values.

She is currently one of the co-chairs of the Juvenile Justice Committee for the Central Florida League of Women Voters and serves on the Victory Council for Ruth's List Florida. She is the legislative analyst for the League of Women Voters of Florida, empowering voters and helping improve the lives of all Floridians.

For that, Nicolette Fariello Springer, we honor you.

RECOGNIZING IZA MONTALVO

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I want to recognize Iza Montalvo.

Iza Montalvo lives in Orlando with her husband and two sons. She is an award-winning journalist, former news executive, radio anchor, television producer, and congressional staffer recognized by the United States Congress for her contributions to the Hispanic community. In 2015, Vision magazine named her as one of central Florida's most influential Hispanics.

Under her leadership as the former editor-in-chief of La Prensa, the oldest running publication in central Florida and also founded by a relative of mine, readership almost doubled in 1 year alone.

As a reporter for the largest Spanish-language media outlet in the country, some of her stories gained national attention during her almost 20-year journalism career.

While working as a reporter, she covered news events like the protests at the United Nations against the U.S. Navy military practices in the island of Vieques, protests in Times Square against the war in Iraq, the aftermath of 9/11, the World Economic Forum, and the New York blackout.

She has had the opportunity to interview high-profile politicians and celebrities of worldwide recognition as well as holding an exclusive interview with the Federal agent who stopped the 20th hijacker from catching a flight during the terrorist attacks on 9/11.

Her reporting with the Puerto Rican diaspora, neglected communities of color, Latinx and migrant communities earned her recognitions and awards from the prestigious National Association of Hispanic Publications.

She served as the press secretary of two U.S. Representatives before taking her vast experience into a new business venture. She currently is the founder and president of the Olan Group, a purpose-led communications, research, and consultancy firm in Orlando.

As an independent journalist and media strategist, she is focused on raising awareness about underreported issues affecting the world, like environmental justice and women's rights, in Spanish language and media outlets covering the Latinx experience in the U.S.

She also served as our press secretary from 2017 to 2018 and did an absolutely fantastic job.

And for that, Ms. Iza Montalvo, we honor you.

RECOGNIZING DR. CATHERINE "ELIZABETH" MCCARTHY

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I want to recognize Dr. Catherine "Elizabeth" McCarthy.

Dr. Elizabeth McCarthy currently serves as the legislative director for the Florida LGBT Democratic Caucus and as federal chair of the Democratic Women's Club of Florida.

Born in Richmond, Virginia, she moved to Florida in 1981. After attending high school in Pasco County, she attended the University of Florida and Florida State University on basketball scholarships and graduated from Florida State in 1992 with a degree in criminology.

She then went back to school to become a nurse. After spending 25 years working as a cardio operating room registered nurse for the Florida Heart Group, she decided to attend medical school at the University of Central Florida and soon became a cardiologist.

Elizabeth was working at Orlando Regional Medical Center the night of the horrific Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida. As a doctor, her work was vital in saving the lives of many victims and members of our community. She was able to remove 77 bullets out of 32 victims.

As a member of the LGBT community and an LGBT activist, she now serves on the One Pulse Foundation Memorial Task Force, established to create a sanctuary of hope and to grant care for the families of victims and survivors.

And for that, Dr. Elizabeth McCarthy, we honor you.

RECOGNIZING ANN MARIE SIEFKER

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I want to recognize Ann Marie Siefker.

Ann Marie Siefker was born on May 8, 1957. She attended Cardinal Gibbons High School and graduated from Florida Atlantic University with a degree in education.

Ann was a special education teacher at West Orange High School, a long-time member of the Classroom Teachers Association, and taught children for over 30 years.

Ann joined God on November 18, 2018, and we are recognizing her posthumously. She is survived by her mother, Mary; her brothers, Joseph and James; and her sister, Joan.

Ms. Ann Marie Siefker, for that, we honor you.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTINA WHITFIELD ATKINSON

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I want to recognize Christina Whitfield Atkinson.

Christina Whitfield Atkinson resides with her husband, Jeffrey; their four dogs; and is supported by her son, Thomas; two stepdaughters, Mariah and Amber; and her four grandchildren.

She has long believed women are the backbone to any successful, prosperous society. She has earned both a bachelor's and master's degree in business administration and has worked for the past 20 years in multiple professional capacities, including owning a dental supply company; working in risk management, internet security, insurance claims, as an adjunct university professor; and has dedicated hundreds of hours to various charities.

She believes in promoting a philosophy of integrity and honor through giving back to those who have given her so much. She believes there is no greater honor than participating in and promoting philanthropic activities.

In January 2018, after leaving her role in corporate America, she was appointed as the VA representative for Soldiers' Angels. As the wife of an Air Force veteran, sister to a Navy veteran, and mother-in-law to an Active-Duty Army soldier, Christina was thrilled to volunteer for one of the highest ranked 501(c)3 organizations, which is dedicated to supporting our military veterans.

Christina oversees a diverse group of volunteers in the Orlando area who visit veterans who are patients at the VA Hospital at Lake Nona; help with veteran support events, including distributing gifts and blankets from the community; and oversee the monthly mobile food distribution, which provides 200 low-income veterans 50 pounds of food each month.

If she is not at the VA supporting our veterans, she is reaching deep into the community to find other groups and business and community leaders to help our military veterans.

Her love of the military is her primary focus in all she does and is permanently ingrained in her.

And for that, Ms. Christina Whitfield Atkinson, we honor you.

RECOGNIZING CHLOE C. BATTLE

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I want to recognize Chloe C. Battle.

Chloe Battle works in Orlando, Florida, as the executive director for the local food pantry called Servant's Heart Ministry. The faith-based organization feeds children, seniors, and other vulnerable individuals through community partnerships by providing basic needs, empowering people to grow and thrive in their own neighborhoods, and offering opportunities for people to serve.

Ms. Battle's mission is to feed the hungry, and she also advocates for building relationships, which she says is the most important part of serving and is the cornerstone for community

health. When you get to know a family at the interpersonal level, their needs become more apparent and easier to address, and resources provided become more meaningful to them.

Before entering the nonprofit sector, Ms. Battle acquired her bachelor of science in psychology from Indiana University, working out of a prestigious child development lab. She developed a keen interest in health psychology and social work and, from there, maintained a personal commitment to caregiving, family, advocacy, and community casework.

Ms. Battle cites that her strength comes from God and personal experience, and her growth as a leader and community partner drives her forward to show others how everyone can do something and that education and nurturing is the key to the success of all families.

And for that, Ms. Chloe C. Battle, we honor you.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE RULES

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS FOR THE
116TH CONGRESS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Washington, DC, March 7, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
*House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to clause 2 of Rule XI, I submit to the House the Rules of the Committee on Ethics for the 116th Congress for publication in the Congressional Record.

Sincerely,

THEODORE E. DEUTH,
Chairman.

Enclosure.

FOREWORD

The Committee on Ethics is unique in the House of Representatives. Consistent with the duty to carry out its advisory and enforcement responsibilities in an impartial manner, the Committee is the only standing committee of the House of Representatives the membership of which is divided evenly by party. These rules are intended to provide a fair procedural framework for the conduct of the Committee's activities and to help ensure that the Committee serves well the people of the United States, the House of Representatives, and the Members, officers, and employees of the House of Representatives.

PART I—GENERAL COMMITTEE RULES

RULE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

(a) So far as applicable, these rules and the Rules of the House of Representatives shall be the rules of the Committee and any subcommittee. The Committee adopts these rules under the authority of clause 2(a)(1) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, 116th Congress.

(b) The rules of the Committee may be modified, amended, or repealed by a vote of a majority of the Committee.

(c) When the interests of justice so require, the Committee, by a majority vote of its members, may adopt any special procedures, not inconsistent with these rules, deemed necessary to resolve a particular matter before it. Copies of such special procedures shall be furnished to all parties in the matter.

(d) The Chair and Ranking Minority Member shall have access to such information that they request as necessary to conduct Committee business.

RULE 2. DEFINITIONS

(a) "Committee" means the Committee on Ethics.

(b) "Complaint" means a written allegation of improper conduct against a Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives filed with the Committee with the intent to initiate an inquiry.

(c) "Inquiry" means an investigation by an investigative subcommittee into allegations against a Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives.

(d) "Investigate," "Investigating," and/or "Investigation" mean review of the conduct of a Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives that is conducted or authorized by the Committee, an investigative subcommittee, or the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee.

(e) "Board" means the Board of the Office of Congressional Ethics.

(f) "Referral" means a report sent to the Committee from the Board pursuant to House Rules and all applicable House Resolutions regarding the conduct of a House Member, officer, or employee, including any accompanying findings or other supporting documentation.

(g) "Investigative Subcommittee" means a subcommittee designated pursuant to Rule 19(a) to conduct an inquiry to determine if a Statement of Alleged Violation should be issued.

(h) "Statement of Alleged Violation" means a formal charging document filed by an investigative subcommittee with the Committee containing specific allegations against a Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives of a violation of the Code of Official Conduct, or of a law, rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct applicable to the performance of official duties or the discharge of official responsibilities.

(i) "Adjudicatory Subcommittee" means a subcommittee designated pursuant to Rule 23(a) that holds an adjudicatory hearing and determines whether the counts in a Statement of Alleged Violation are proved by clear and convincing evidence.

(j) "Sanction Hearing" means a Committee hearing to determine what sanction, if any, to adopt or to recommend to the House of Representatives.

(k) "Respondent" means a Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives who is the subject of an investigation.

(l) "Office of Advice and Education" refers to the Office established by section 803(i) of the Ethics Reform Act of 1989. The Office handles inquiries; prepares written opinions in response to specific requests; develops general guidance; and organizes seminars, workshops, and briefings for the benefit of the House of Representatives.

(m) "Member" means a Representative in, or a Delegate to, or the Resident Commissioner to, the U.S. House of Representatives.

RULE 3. ADVISORY OPINIONS AND WAIVERS

(a) The Office of Advice and Education shall handle inquiries; prepare written opinions providing specific advice, including reviews of requests for privately-sponsored travel pursuant to the Committee's Travel Guidelines and Regulations; develop general guidance; and organize seminars, workshops, and briefings for the benefit of the House of Representatives.

(b) Any Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives may request a written opinion with respect to the propriety of any current or proposed conduct of such Member, officer, or employee.

(c) The Office of Advice and Education may provide information and guidance regarding laws, rules, regulations, and other standards of conduct applicable to Members, officers, and employees in the performance of their duties or the discharge of their responsibilities.

(d) In general, the Committee shall provide a written opinion to an individual only in response to a written request, and the written opinion shall address the conduct only of the inquiring individual, or of persons for whom the inquiring individual is responsible as employing authority.

(e) A written request for an opinion shall be addressed to the Chair of the Committee and shall include a complete and accurate statement of the relevant facts. A request shall be signed by the requester or the requester's authorized representative or employing authority. A representative shall disclose to the Committee the identity of the principal on whose behalf advice is being sought.

(f) Requests for privately-sponsored travel shall be treated like any other request for a written opinion for purposes of paragraphs

(g) through (l).

(1) The Committee's Travel Guidelines and Regulations shall govern the request submission and Committee approval process for privately-sponsored travel consistent with House Rules.

(2) A request for privately-sponsored travel of a Member, officer, or employee shall include a completed and signed Traveler Form that attaches the Private Sponsor Certification Form and includes all information required by the Committee's Travel Guidelines and Regulations. A private sponsor offering officially-connected travel to a Member, officer, or employee must complete and sign a Private Sponsor Certification Form, and provide a copy of that form to the invitee(s).

(3) Any individual who knowingly and willfully falsifies, or who knowingly and willfully fails to file, any form required by the Committee's Travel Guidelines and Regulations may be subject to civil penalties and criminal sanctions pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1001.

(g) The Office of Advice and Education shall prepare for the Committee a response to each written request for an opinion from a Member, officer, or employee. Each response shall discuss all applicable laws, rules, regulations, or other standards.

(h) Where a request is unclear or incomplete, the Office of Advice and Education may seek additional information from the requester.

(i) The Chair and Ranking Minority Member are authorized to take action on behalf of the Committee on any proposed written opinion that they determine does not require consideration by the Committee. If the Chair or Ranking Minority Member requests a written opinion, or seeks a waiver, extension, or approval pursuant to Rules 3(m), 4(c), 4(e), or 4(h), the next ranking member of the requester's party is authorized to act in lieu of the requester.

(j) The Committee shall keep confidential any request for advice from a Member, officer, or employee, as well as any response thereto. Upon request of any Member, officer, or employee who has submitted a written request for an opinion or submitted a request for privately-sponsored travel, the Committee may release to the requesting individual a copy of their own written request for advice or submitted travel forms, any subsequent written communications between such individual and Committee staff regarding the request, and any Committee advisory opinion or travel letter issued to that individual in response. The Committee shall not release any internal Committee staff work product, communications, or notes in response to such a request, except as authorized by the Committee.

(k) The Committee may take no adverse action in regard to any conduct that has been undertaken in reliance on a written opinion if the conduct conforms to the specific facts addressed in the opinion.

(l) Information provided to the Committee by a Member, officer, or employee seeking advice regarding prospective conduct may not be used as the basis for initiating an investigation under clause 3(a)(2) or clause 3(b) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, if such Member, officer, or employee acts in good faith in accordance with the written advice of the Committee.

(m) A written request for a waiver of clause 5 of House Rule XXV (the House gift rule), or for any other waiver or approval, shall be treated in all respects like any other request for a written opinion.

(n) A written request for a waiver of clause 5 of House Rule XXV (the House gift rule) shall specify the nature of the waiver being sought and the specific circumstances justifying the waiver.

(o) An employee seeking a waiver of time limits applicable to travel paid for by a private source shall include with the request evidence that the employing authority is aware of the request. In any other instance where proposed employee conduct may reflect on the performance of official duties, the Committee may require that the requester submit evidence that the employing authority knows of the conduct.

RULE 4. FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

(a) In matters relating to Title I of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, the Committee shall coordinate with the Clerk of the House of Representatives, Legislative Resource Center, to assure that appropriate individuals are notified of their obligation to file reports required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act and that such individuals are provided in a timely fashion with filing instructions and forms developed by the Committee.

(b) The Committee shall coordinate with the Legislative Resource Center to assure that information that the Ethics in Government Act requires to be placed on the public record is made public.

(c) Any reports required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act filed by Members of the Board of the Office of Congressional Ethics that are forwarded to the Committee by the Clerk shall not be subject to paragraphs (d) through (q) of this Rule. The Office of Congressional Ethics retains jurisdiction over review of the timeliness and completeness of filings by Members of the Board as the Board's supervising ethics office.

(d) The Chair and Ranking Minority Member are authorized to grant on behalf of the Committee requests for reasonable extensions of time for the filing of Financial Disclosure Statements. Any such request must be received by the Committee no later than the date on which the Statement in question is due. A request received after such date may be granted by the Committee only in extraordinary circumstances. Such extensions for one individual in a calendar year shall not exceed a total of 90 days per Statement, including any amendment required by the Committee in accordance with clause (m). No extension shall be granted authorizing a nonincumbent candidate to file a statement later than 30 days prior to a primary or general election in which the candidate is participating.

(e) An individual who takes legally sufficient action to withdraw as a candidate before the date on which that individual's Financial Disclosure Statement is due under the Ethics in Government Act shall not be required to file a Statement. An individual

shall not be excused from filing a Financial Disclosure Statement when withdrawal as a candidate occurs after the date on which such Statement was due.

(f) Any individual who files a report required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act more than 30 days after the later of—

(1) the date such report is required to be filed, or

(2) if a filing extension is granted to such individual, the last day of the filing extension period, is required by such Act to pay a late filing fee of \$200. The Chair and Ranking Minority Member are authorized to approve requests that the fee be waived based on extraordinary circumstances.

(g) Any late report that is submitted without a required filing fee shall be deemed procedurally deficient and not properly filed.

(h) The Chair and Ranking Minority Member are authorized to approve requests for waivers of the aggregation and reporting of gifts as provided by section 102(a)(2)(C) of the Ethics in Government Act. If such a request is approved, both the incoming request and the Committee response shall be forwarded to the Legislative Resource Center for placement on the public record.

(i) The Chair and Ranking Minority Member are authorized to approve blind trusts as qualifying under section 102(f)(3) of the Ethics in Government Act. The correspondence relating to formal approval of a blind trust, the trust document, the list of assets transferred to the trust, and any other documents required by law to be made public, shall be forwarded to the Legislative Resource Center for such purpose.

(j) The Committee shall designate staff who shall review reports required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act and, based upon information contained therein, indicate in a form and manner prescribed by the Committee whether the Statement appears substantially accurate and complete and the filer appears to be in compliance with applicable laws and rules.

(k) Each report required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act shall be reviewed within 60 days after the date of filing.

(l) If the reviewing staff believes that additional information is required because (1) the report required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act appears not substantially accurate or complete, or (2) the filer may not be in compliance with applicable laws or rules, then the reporting individual shall be notified in writing of the additional information believed to be required, or of the law or rule with which the reporting individual does not appear to be in compliance. Such notice shall also state the time within which a response is to be submitted. Any such notice shall remain confidential.

(m) Within the time specified, including any extension granted in accordance with clause (d), a reporting individual who concurs with the Committee's notification that the report required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act is not complete, or that other action is required, shall submit the necessary information or take appropriate action. Any amendment may be in the form of a revised report required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act or an explanatory letter addressed to the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

(n) Any amendment shall be placed on the public record in the same manner as other reports required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act. The individual designated by the Committee to review the original report required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act shall review any amendment thereto.

(o) Within the time specified, including any extension granted in accordance with

clause (d), a reporting individual who does not agree with the Committee that the report required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act is deficient or that other action is required, shall be provided an opportunity to respond orally or in writing. If the explanation is accepted, a copy of the response, if written, or a note summarizing an oral response, shall be retained in Committee files with the original report.

(p) The Committee shall be the final arbiter of whether any report required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act requires clarification or amendment.

(q) If the Committee determines, by vote of a majority of its members, that there is reason to believe that an individual has willfully failed to file a report required to be filed under Title I of the Ethics in Government Act or has willfully falsified or willfully failed to file information required to be reported, then the Committee shall refer the name of the individual, together with the evidence supporting its finding, to the Attorney General pursuant to section 104(b) of the Ethics in Government Act. Such referral shall not preclude the Committee from initiating such other action as may be authorized by other provisions of law or the Rules of the House of Representatives.

RULE 5. MEETINGS

(a) The regular meeting day of the Committee shall be the second Tuesday of each month, except when the House of Representatives is not meeting on that day. When the Committee Chair determines that there is sufficient reason, meetings may be called on additional days. A regularly scheduled meeting need not be held when the Chair determines there is no business to be considered.

(b) The Chair shall establish the agenda for meetings of the Committee, and the Ranking Minority Member may place additional items on the agenda.

(c) All meetings of the Committee or any subcommittee shall occur in executive session unless the Committee or subcommittee, by an affirmative vote of a majority of its members, opens the meeting to the public.

(d) Any hearing held by an adjudicatory subcommittee, or any sanction hearing held by the Committee, shall be open to the public unless the Committee or subcommittee, by an affirmative vote of a majority of its members, closes the hearing to the public.

(e) A subcommittee shall meet at the discretion of its Chair.

(f) Insofar as practicable, notice for any Committee or subcommittee meeting shall be provided at least seven days in advance of the meeting. The Chair of the Committee or subcommittee may waive such time period for good cause.

RULE 6. COMMITTEE STAFF

(a) The staff is to be assembled and retained as a professional, nonpartisan staff.

(b) Each member of the staff shall be professional and demonstrably qualified for the position for which the individual is hired.

(c) The staff as a whole and each individual member of the staff shall perform all official duties in a nonpartisan manner.

(d) No member of the staff shall engage in any partisan political activity directly affecting any congressional or presidential election.

(e) No member of the staff or outside counsel may accept public speaking engagements or write for publication on any subject that is in any way related to the employment or duties with the Committee of such individual without specific prior approval from the Chair and Ranking Minority Member.

(f) All staff members shall be appointed by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Committee. Such vote shall

occur at the first meeting of the membership of the Committee during each Congress and as necessary during the Congress.

(g) Subject to the approval of the Committee on House Administration, the Committee may retain counsel not employed by the House of Representatives whenever the Committee determines, by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Committee, that the retention of outside counsel is necessary and appropriate.

(h) If the Committee determines that it is necessary to retain staff members for the purpose of a particular investigation or other proceeding, then such staff shall be retained only for the duration of that particular investigation or proceeding.

(i) Outside counsel may be dismissed prior to the end of a contract between the Committee and such counsel only by a majority vote of the members of the Committee.

(j) In addition to any other staff provided for by law, rule, or other authority, with respect to the Committee, the Chair and Ranking Minority Member each may appoint one individual as a shared staff member from the respective personal staff of the Chair or Ranking Minority Member to perform service for the Committee. Such shared staff may assist the Chair or Ranking Minority Member on any subcommittee on which the Chair or Ranking Minority Member serves. Only paragraphs (c) and (e) of this Rule and Rule 7(b) shall apply to shared staff

RULE 7. CONFIDENTIALITY

(a) Before any Member or employee of the Committee, including members of an investigative subcommittee selected under clause 5(a)(4) of Rule X of the House of Representatives and shared staff designated pursuant to Committee Rule 6(j), may have access to information that is confidential under the rules of the Committee, the following oath (or affirmation) shall be executed in writing:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will not disclose, to any person or entity outside the Committee on Ethics, any information received in the course of my service with the Committee, except as authorized by the Committee or in accordance with its rules."

Copies of the executed oath shall be provided to the Clerk of the House as part of the records of the House. Breaches of confidentiality shall be investigated by the Committee and appropriate action shall be taken.

(b) No member of the staff or outside counsel may make public, unless approved by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Committee, any information, document, or other material that is confidential, derived from executive session, or classified and that is obtained during the course of employment with the Committee.

(c) Committee members and staff shall not disclose any evidence or information relating to any investigation or proceeding of the Committee or a subcommittee to any person or organization outside the Committee, unless authorized by the Committee.

(d) This rule shall not prohibit the Chair or Ranking Minority Member from disclosing to the Board of the Office of Congressional Ethics the existence of a Committee investigation, the name of the Member, officer, or employee of the House who is the subject of that investigation, and a brief statement of the scope of that investigation in a written request for referral pursuant to Rule 17A(k). Such disclosures will only be made subject to written confirmation from the Board that the information provided by the Chair or Ranking Minority Member will be kept confidential by the Board.

(e) A Statement of Alleged Violation and any written response thereto shall be made public at the first meeting or hearing on the

matter that is open to the public after the respondent has been given full opportunity to respond pursuant to Rule 22. Any other materials in the possession of the Committee regarding such statement may be made public as authorized by the Committee to the extent consistent with the Rules of the House of Representatives. If no public hearing is held on the matter, the Statement of Alleged Violation and any written response thereto shall be included in the Committee's final report on the matter to the House of Representatives.

(f) Unless otherwise determined by a vote of the Committee, only the Chair or Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, after consultation with each other, may make public statements regarding matters before the Committee or any subcommittee.

(g) The Committee may establish procedures necessary to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of any testimony or other information received by the Committee or its staff.

RULE 8. SUBCOMMITTEES—GENERAL POLICY AND STRUCTURE

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of these Rules, the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee may consult with an investigative subcommittee either on their own initiative or on the initiative of the subcommittee, shall have access to evidence and information before a subcommittee with whom they so consult, and shall not thereby be precluded from serving as full, voting members of any adjudicatory subcommittee. Except for the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee pursuant to this paragraph, evidence in the possession of an investigative subcommittee shall not be disclosed to other Committee members except by a vote of the subcommittee.

(b) The Committee may establish other noninvestigative and nonadjudicatory subcommittees and may assign to them such functions as it may deem appropriate. The membership of each subcommittee shall provide equal representation for the majority and minority parties.

(c) The Chair may refer any bill, resolution, or other matter before the Committee to an appropriate subcommittee for consideration. Any such bill, resolution, or other matter may be discharged from the subcommittee to which it was referred by a majority vote of the Committee.

(d) Any member of the Committee may sit with any noninvestigative or nonadjudicatory subcommittee, but only regular members of such subcommittee may vote on any matter before that subcommittee.

RULE 9. QUORUMS AND MEMBER DISQUALIFICATION

(a) The quorum for the Committee or an investigative subcommittee to take testimony and to receive evidence shall be two members, unless otherwise authorized by the House of Representatives.

(b) The quorum for an adjudicatory subcommittee to take testimony, receive evidence, or conduct business shall consist of a majority plus one of the members of the adjudicatory subcommittee.

(c) Except as stated in clauses (a) and (b) of this rule, a quorum for the purpose of conducting business consists of a majority of the members of the Committee or subcommittee.

(d) A member of the Committee shall be ineligible to participate in any Committee or subcommittee proceeding in which such Member is a respondent.

(e) A member of the Committee may seek disqualification from participating in any investigation of the conduct of a Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representa-

tives upon the submission in writing and under oath of an affidavit of disqualification stating that the member cannot render an impartial and unbiased decision. If the Committee approves and accepts such affidavit of disqualification, the Chair shall so notify the Speaker and ask the Speaker to designate a Member of the House of Representatives from the same political party as the disqualified member of the Committee to act as a member of the Committee in any Committee proceeding relating to such investigation.

RULE 10. VOTE REQUIREMENTS

(a) The following actions shall be taken only upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Committee or subcommittee, as appropriate:

- (1) Issuing a subpoena.
- (2) Adopting a full Committee motion to create an investigative subcommittee.
- (3) Adopting or amending a Statement of Alleged Violation.
- (4) Finding that a count in a Statement of Alleged Violation has been proved by clear and convincing evidence.
- (5) Sending a letter of reproval.
- (6) Adopting a recommendation to the House of Representatives that a sanction be imposed.

(7) Adopting a report relating to the conduct of a Member, officer, or employee.

(8) Issuing an advisory opinion of general applicability establishing new policy.

(b) Except as stated in clause (a), action may be taken by the Committee or any subcommittee thereof by a simple majority, a quorum being present.

(c) No motion made to take any of the actions enumerated in clause (a) of this Rule may be entertained by the Chair unless a quorum of the Committee is present when such motion is made.

RULE 11. COMMITTEE RECORDS

(a) All communications and all pleadings pursuant to these rules shall be filed with the Committee at the Committee's office or such other place as designated by the Committee.

(b) All records of the Committee which have been delivered to the Archivist of the United States shall be made available to the public in accordance with Rule VII of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

RULE 12. BROADCASTS OF COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

(a) Television or radio coverage of a Committee or subcommittee hearing or meeting shall be without commercial sponsorship.

(b) Not more than four television cameras, operating from fixed positions, shall be permitted in a hearing or meeting room. The Committee may allocate the positions of permitted television cameras among the television media in consultation with the Executive Committee of the Radio and Television Correspondents' Galleries.

(c) Television cameras shall be placed so as not to obstruct in any way the space between any witness giving evidence or testimony and any member of the Committee, or the visibility of that witness and that member to each other.

(d) Television cameras shall not be placed in positions that unnecessarily obstruct the coverage of the hearing or meeting by the other media.

PART II—INVESTIGATIVE AUTHORITY

RULE 13. HOUSE RESOLUTION

Whenever the House of Representatives, by resolution, authorizes or directs the Committee to undertake an inquiry or investigation, the provisions of the resolution, in conjunction with these Rules, shall govern. To the extent the provisions of the resolution

differ from these Rules, the resolution shall control.

RULE 14. COMMITTEE AUTHORITY TO INVESTIGATE—GENERAL POLICY

(a) Pursuant to clause 3(b) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee may exercise its investigative authority when:

(1) information offered as a complaint, in writing and under oath, by a Member of the House of Representatives is transmitted directly to the Committee;

(2) information offered as a complaint, in writing and under oath, by an individual not a Member of the House is transmitted to the Committee, provided that a Member of the House certifies in writing that such Member believes the information is submitted in good faith and warrants the review and consideration of the Committee;

(3) the Committee, on its own initiative, undertakes an investigation;

(4) a Member, officer, or employee is indicted or otherwise formally charged with criminal conduct or is convicted of a felony in a Federal, State, or local court;

(5) the House of Representatives, by resolution, authorizes or directs the Committee to undertake an inquiry or investigation; or

(6) a referral from the Board is transmitted to the Committee.

(b) The Committee also has investigatory authority over:

(1) certain unauthorized disclosures of intelligence-related information, pursuant to House Rule X, clauses 11(g)(4) and (g)(5);

(2) reports received from the Office of the Inspector General pursuant to House Rule II, clause 6(c)(5);

(3) determinations regarding appeals from fines imposed by the Sergeant-at-Arms for the use of electronic devices in contravention of applicable House rules or policies, pursuant to House Rule II, clause 3(g); and

(4) information received from the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, pursuant to the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995.

RULE 15. COMPLAINTS

(a) A complaint submitted to the Committee shall be in writing, dated, and properly verified (a document will be considered properly verified where a notary executes it with the language, "Signed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me on (date) by (the name of the person)" setting forth in simple, concise, and direct statements—

(1) the name and legal address of the party filing the complaint (hereinafter referred to as the "complainant");

(2) the name and position or title of the respondent(s);

(3) the nature of the alleged violation of the Code of Official Conduct or of other law, rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct applicable to the performance of duties or discharge of responsibilities; and

(4) the facts alleged to give rise to the violation. The complaint shall not contain innuendo, speculative assertions, or conclusory statements.

(b) Any documents in the possession of the complainant that relate to the allegations may be submitted with the complaint.

(c) Information offered as a complaint by a Member of the House of Representatives may be transmitted directly to the Committee.

(d) Information offered as a complaint by an individual not a Member of the House may be transmitted to the Committee, provided that a Member of the House certifies in writing that such Member believes the information is submitted in good faith and warrants the review and consideration of the Committee.

(e) A complaint must be accompanied by a certification, which may be unsworn, that the complainant has provided an exact copy

of the filed complaint and all attachments to the respondent(s).

(f) The Committee may defer action on a complaint against a Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives when the complaint alleges conduct that the Committee has reason to believe is being reviewed by appropriate law enforcement or regulatory authorities, or when the Committee determines that it is appropriate for the conduct alleged in the complaint to be reviewed initially by law enforcement or regulatory authorities.

(g) A complaint may not be amended without leave of the Committee. Otherwise, any new allegations of improper conduct must be submitted in a new complaint that independently meets the procedural requirements of the Rules of the House of Representatives and the Committee's Rules.

(h) The Committee shall not accept, and shall return to the complainant, any complaint submitted within the 60 days before a Federal, State, or local election in which the subject of the complaint is a candidate.

(i) The Committee shall not consider a complaint, nor shall any investigation be undertaken by the Committee, of any alleged violation which occurred before the third previous Congress unless the Committee determines that the alleged violation is directly related to an alleged violation which occurred in a more recent Congress.

RULE 16. DUTIES OF COMMITTEE CHAIR AND RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

(a) Whenever information offered as a complaint is submitted to the Committee, the Chair and Ranking Minority Member shall have 14 calendar days or 5 legislative days, whichever occurs first, to determine whether the information meets the requirements of the Committee's rules for what constitutes a complaint.

(b) Whenever the Chair and Ranking Minority Member jointly determine that information submitted to the Committee meets the requirements of the Committee's rules for what constitutes a complaint, they shall have 45 calendar days or 5 legislative days, whichever is later, after the date that the Chair and Ranking Minority Member determine that information filed meets the requirements of the Committee's rules for what constitutes a complaint, unless the Committee by an affirmative vote of a majority of its members votes otherwise, to—

(1) recommend to the Committee that it dispose of the complaint, or any portion thereof, in any manner that does not require action by the House, which may include dismissal of the complaint or resolution of the complaint by a letter to the Member, officer, or employee of the House against whom the complaint is made;

(2) establish an investigative subcommittee; or

(3) request that the Committee extend the applicable 45-calendar day period when they determine more time is necessary in order to make a recommendation under paragraph (1) or (2) of Rule 16(b).

(c) The Chair and Ranking Minority Member may jointly gather additional information concerning alleged conduct which is the basis of a complaint or of information offered as a complaint until they have established an investigative subcommittee or the Chair or Ranking Minority Member has placed on the agenda the issue of whether to establish an investigative subcommittee.

(d) If the Chair and Ranking Minority Member jointly determine that information submitted to the Committee meets the requirements of the Committee rules for what constitutes a complaint, and the complaint is not disposed of within 45 calendar days or 5 legislative days, whichever is later, and no

additional 45-day extension is made, then they shall establish an investigative subcommittee and forward the complaint, or any portion thereof; to that subcommittee for its consideration. If at any time during the time period either the Chair or Ranking Minority Member places on the agenda the issue of whether to establish an investigative subcommittee, then an investigative subcommittee may be established only by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Committee.

(e) Whenever the Chair and Ranking Minority Member jointly determine that information submitted to the Committee does not meet the requirements for what constitutes a complaint set forth in the Committee rules, they may (1) return the information to the complainant with a statement that it fails to meet the requirements for what constitutes a complaint set forth in the Committee's rules; or (2) recommend to the Committee that it authorize the establishment of an investigative subcommittee.

RULE 17. PROCESSING OF COMPLAINTS

(a) If a complaint is in compliance with House and Committee Rules, a copy of the complaint and the Committee Rules shall be forwarded to the respondent(s) within 5 days with notice that the complaint conforms to the applicable rules.

(b) A respondent may, within 30 days of the Committee's notification in clause (a), provide to the Committee any information relevant to a complaint filed with the Committee. The respondent may submit a written statement in response to the complaint. Such a statement shall be signed by the respondent. If the statement is prepared by counsel for the respondent, the respondent shall sign a representation that the respondent has reviewed the response and agrees with the factual assertions contained therein.

(c) The Committee staff may request information from a respondent or obtain additional information relevant to the case from other sources prior to the establishment of an investigative subcommittee only when so directed by the Chair and Ranking Minority Member.

(d) The respondent(s) shall be notified in writing regarding the Chair and Ranking Minority Member's determination under Rule 16(e) or the Committee's decision either to dismiss the complaint or to create an investigative subcommittee.

RULE 17A. REFERRALS FROM THE BOARD OF THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS

(a) The Committee has exclusive jurisdiction over the interpretation, administration, and enforcement of the Code of Official Conduct pursuant to clause 1(g) of House Rule X. Receipt of referrals from the Board under this rule does not limit the Committee's discretion to address referrals in any way through the appropriate procedures authorized by Committee Rules. The Committee shall review the report and findings transmitted by the Board without prejudice or presumptions as to the merit of the allegations.

(b)(1) Whenever the Committee receives either (A) a referral containing a written report and any findings and supporting documentation from the Board; or (B) a referral from the Board pursuant to a request under Rule 17A(k), the Chair shall have 45 calendar days or 5 legislative days after the date the referral is received, whichever is later, to make public the report and findings of the Board unless the Chair and Ranking Minority Member jointly decide, or the Committee votes, to withhold such information for not more than one additional 45-day period.

(2) At least one calendar day before the Committee makes public any report and

findings of the Board, the Chair shall notify in writing the Board and the Member, officer, or employee who is the subject of the referral of the impending public release of these documents. At the same time, the Chair shall transmit a copy of any public statement on the Committee's disposition of the matter and any accompanying Committee report to the individual who is the subject of the referral.

(3) All public statements and reports and findings of the Board that are required to be made public under this Rule shall be posted on the Committee's website.

(c) If the OCE report and findings are withheld for an additional 45-day period pursuant to paragraph (b)(1), the Chair shall—

(1) make a public statement on the day of such decision or vote that the matter referred from the Board has been extended; and

(2) make public the written report and findings pursuant to paragraph (b) upon the termination of such additional period.

(d) If the Board transmits a report with a recommendation to dismiss or noting a matter as unresolved due to a tie vote, and the matter is extended for an additional period as provided in paragraph (b), the Committee is not required to make a public statement that the matter has been extended pursuant to paragraph (b)(1).

(e) If the Committee votes to dismiss a matter referred from the Board, the Committee is not required to make public the written report and findings of the Board pursuant to paragraph (c) unless the Committee's vote is inconsistent with the recommendation of the Board. A vote by the Committee to dismiss a matter is not considered inconsistent with a report from the Board that the matter is unresolved by the Board due to a tie vote.

(f) Except as provided by paragraph (g):

(1) If the Committee establishes an investigative subcommittee respecting any matter referred by the Board, then the report and findings of the Board shall not be made public until the conclusion of the investigative subcommittee process. The Committee shall issue a public statement noting the establishment of an investigative subcommittee, which shall include the name of the Member, officer, or employee who is the subject of the inquiry, and shall set forth the alleged violation.

(2) If any such investigative subcommittee does not conclude its review within one year after the Board's referral, then the Committee shall make public the report of the Board no later than one year after the referral. If the investigative subcommittee does not conclude its review before the end of the Congress in which the report of the Board is made public, the Committee shall make public any findings of the Board on the last day of that Congress.

(g) If the vote of the Committee is a tie or the Committee fails to act by the close of any applicable period(s) under this rule, the report and the findings of the Board shall be made public by the Committee, along with a public statement by the Chair explaining the status of the matter.

(h)(1) If the Committee agrees to a request from an appropriate law enforcement or regulatory authority to defer taking action on a matter referred by the Board under paragraph (b)—

(A) The Committee is not required to make public the written report and findings of the Board pursuant to paragraph (c), except that if the recommendation of the Board is that the matter requires further review, the Committee shall make public the written report of the Board but not the findings; and

(B) The Committee shall make a public statement that it is deferring taking action on the matter at the request of such law en-

forcement or regulatory authority within one day (excluding weekends and public holidays) of the day that the Committee agrees to the request.

(2) If the Committee has not acted on the matter within one year of the date the public statement described in paragraph (h)(1)(B) is released, the Committee shall make a public statement that it continues to defer taking action on the matter. The Committee shall make a new statement upon the expiration of each succeeding one-year period during which the Committee has not acted on the matter.

(i) The Committee shall not accept, and shall return to the Board, any referral from the Board within 60 days before a Federal, State, or local election in which the subject of the referral is a candidate.

(j) The Committee may postpone any reporting requirement under this rule that falls within that 60-day period until after the date of the election in which the subject of the referral is a candidate. For purposes of calculating any applicable period under this Rule, any days within the 60-day period before such an election and the date of the election shall not be counted.

(k)(1) At any time after the Committee receives written notification from the Board of the Office of Congressional Ethics that the Board is undertaking a review of alleged conduct of any Member, officer, or employee of the House at a time when the Committee is investigating, or has completed an investigation of the same matter, the Committee may so notify the Board in writing and request that the Board cease its review and refer the matter to the Committee for its consideration immediately. The Committee shall also notify the Board in writing if the Committee has not reached a final resolution of the matter or has not referred the matter to the appropriate Federal or State authorities by the end of any applicable time period specified in Rule 17A (including any permissible extension).

(2) The Committee may not request a second referral of the matter from the Board if the Committee has notified the Board that it is unable to resolve the matter previously requested pursuant to this section. The Board may subsequently send a referral regarding a matter previously requested and returned by the Committee after the conclusion of the Board's review process.

RULE 18. COMMITTEE-INITIATED INQUIRY OR INVESTIGATION

(a) Notwithstanding the absence of a filed complaint, the Committee may consider any information in its possession indicating that a Member, officer, or employee may have committed a violation of the Code of Official Conduct or any law, rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct applicable to the conduct of such Member, officer, or employee in the performance of the duties or the discharge of the responsibilities of such individual. The Chair and Ranking Minority Member may jointly gather additional information concerning such an alleged violation by a Member, officer, or employee unless and until an investigative subcommittee has been established. The Chair and Ranking Minority Member may also jointly take appropriate action consistent with Committee Rules to resolve the matter.

(b) If the Committee votes to establish an investigative subcommittee, the Committee shall proceed in accordance with Rule 19.

(c) Any written request by a Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives that the Committee conduct an investigation into such person's own conduct shall be considered in accordance with subsection (a) of this Rule.

(d) An investigation shall not be undertaken regarding any alleged violation that

occurred before the third previous Congress unless a majority of the Committee determines that the alleged violation is directly related to an alleged violation that occurred in a more recent Congress.

(e)(1) An inquiry shall be undertaken by an investigative subcommittee with regard to any felony conviction of a Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives in a Federal, State, or local court who has been sentenced. Notwithstanding this provision, the Chair and Ranking Minority Member have the discretion to gather information pursuant to subsection (a) of this Rule, and the Committee has the discretion to initiate an inquiry upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Committee, at any time prior to conviction or sentencing.

(2) Not later than 30 days after a Member of the House is indicted or otherwise formally charged with criminal conduct in any Federal, State, or local court, the Committee shall either initiate an inquiry upon a majority vote of the members of the Committee or submit a report to the House describing its reasons for not initiating an inquiry and describing the actions, if any, that the Committee has taken in response to the allegations.

(3) In addition to any other evidence which the Committee or investigative subcommittee may consider, the Committee or investigative subcommittee may take into evidence any information related to the subject of an investigation contained in trial transcripts and all exhibits admitted into evidence at trial.

RULE 19. INVESTIGATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE

(a)(1) Upon the establishment of an investigative subcommittee, the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall designate four members (with equal representation from the majority and minority parties) to serve as an investigative subcommittee to undertake an inquiry. Members of the Committee and Members of the House selected pursuant to clause 5(a)(4)(A) of Rule X of the House of Representatives are eligible for appointment to an investigative subcommittee, as determined by the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee. At the time of appointment, the Chair shall designate one member of the subcommittee to serve as the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member shall designate one member of the subcommittee to serve as the ranking minority member of the investigative subcommittee. The Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee may serve as members of an investigative subcommittee, but may not serve as non-voting, ex-officio members.

(2) A respondent shall be notified of the membership of the investigative subcommittee and shall have 10 days after such notice is transmitted to object to the participation of any subcommittee member. Such objection shall be in writing and must be on the grounds that the subcommittee member cannot render an impartial and unbiased decision. The members of the Committee shall engage in a collegial discussion regarding such objection. The subcommittee member against whom the objection is made shall be the sole judge of any disqualification and may choose to seek disqualification from participating in the inquiry pursuant to Rule 9(e).

(b) In an inquiry undertaken by an investigative subcommittee—

(1) All proceedings, including the taking of testimony, shall be conducted in executive session and all evidence or testimony produced pursuant to subpoena or otherwise shall be deemed to have been taken or produced in executive session.

(2) The investigative subcommittee, through any of its members or the staff, shall ask the respondent(s) and all witnesses whether they intend to be represented by counsel. If so, the respondent or witnesses or their legal representatives shall provide written designation of counsel. A respondent or witness who is represented by counsel shall not be questioned in the absence of counsel unless an explicit waiver is obtained.

(3) The subcommittee shall provide the respondent(s) an opportunity to present, orally or in writing, a statement, which must be under oath or affirmation, regarding the allegations and any other relevant questions arising out of the inquiry.

(4) The staff may interview witnesses, examine documents and other evidence, and request that submitted statements be under oath or affirmation and that documents be certified as to their authenticity and accuracy.

(5) The subcommittee, by a majority vote of its members, may require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers, documents, and other items as it deems necessary to the conduct of the inquiry. Unless the Committee otherwise provides, the subpoena power shall rest in the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee and a subpoena shall be issued upon the request of the investigative subcommittee.

(6) Required testimony shall be given under oath or affirmation. The form of the oath or affirmation shall be: "Do you solemnly swear (or affirm) that the testimony you will give before this subcommittee in the matter now under consideration will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth (so help you God)?" The oath or affirmation shall be administered by the Chair or any individual designated by the Chair to administer oaths.

(c) During the inquiry, the procedure respecting the admissibility of evidence and rulings shall be as follows:

(1) Any relevant evidence shall be admissible unless the evidence is privileged under the precedents of the House of Representatives.

(2) The Chair of the subcommittee or other presiding member at any investigative subcommittee proceeding shall rule upon any question of admissibility or relevance of evidence, motion, procedure, or any other matter, and may direct any witness to answer any question under penalty of contempt. A witness, witness counsel, or a member of the subcommittee may appeal any rulings to the members present at that proceeding. A majority vote of the members present at such proceeding on such appeal shall govern the question of admissibility, and no appeal shall lie to the Committee.

(3) Whenever a person is determined by a majority vote to be in contempt of the subcommittee, the matter may be referred to the Committee to determine whether to refer the matter to the House of Representatives for consideration.

(4) Committee counsel may, subject to subcommittee approval, enter into stipulations with a respondent and/or the respondent's counsel as to facts that are not in dispute.

(d) Upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the subcommittee members, and an affirmative vote of a majority of the full Committee, an investigative subcommittee may expand the scope of its inquiry.

(e) Upon completion of the inquiry, the staff shall draft for the investigative subcommittee a report that shall contain a comprehensive summary of the information received regarding the alleged violations.

(f) Upon completion of the inquiry, an investigative subcommittee, by a majority

vote of its members, may adopt a Statement of Alleged Violation if it determines that there is substantial reason to believe that a violation of the Code of Official Conduct, or of a law, rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct applicable to the performance of official duties or the discharge of official responsibilities by a Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives has occurred. If more than one violation is alleged, such Statement shall be divided into separate counts. Each count shall relate to a separate violation, shall contain a plain and concise statement of the alleged facts of such violation, and shall include a reference to the provision of the Code of Official Conduct or law, rule, regulation, or other applicable standard of conduct governing the performance of duties or discharge of responsibilities alleged to have been violated. A copy of such Statement shall be transmitted to the respondent and the respondent's counsel.

(g) If the investigative subcommittee does not adopt a Statement of Alleged Violation, it shall transmit to the Committee a report containing a summary of the information received in the inquiry, its conclusions and reasons therefore, and any appropriate recommendation.

(h) An investigative subcommittee may transmit a single report regarding multiple respondents, but shall adopt a separate Statement of Alleged Violation for each respondent where applicable.

RULE 20. AMENDMENTS TO STATEMENTS OF ALLEGED VIOLATION

(a) An investigative subcommittee may, upon an affirmative vote of a majority of its members, amend its Statement of Alleged Violation anytime before the Statement of Alleged Violation is transmitted to the Committee; and

(b) If an investigative subcommittee amends its Statement of Alleged Violation, the respondent shall be notified in writing and shall have 30 calendar days from the date of that notification to file an answer to the amended Statement of Alleged Violation.

RULE 21. COMMITTEE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

(a) Whenever an investigative subcommittee does not adopt a Statement of Alleged Violation and transmits a report to that effect to the Committee, the Committee may by an affirmative vote of a majority of its members transmit such report to the House of Representatives;

(b) Whenever an investigative subcommittee adopts a Statement of Alleged Violation but recommends that no further action be taken, it shall transmit a report to the Committee regarding the Statement of Alleged Violation; and

(c) Whenever an investigative subcommittee adopts a Statement of Alleged Violation, the respondent admits to the violations set forth in such Statement, the respondent waives the right to an adjudicatory hearing, and the respondent's waiver is approved by the Committee—

(1) the subcommittee shall prepare a report for transmittal to the Committee, a final draft of which shall be provided to the respondent not less than 15 calendar days before the subcommittee votes on whether to adopt the report;

(2) the respondent may submit views in writing regarding the final draft to the subcommittee within 7 calendar days of receipt of that draft;

(3) the subcommittee shall transmit a report to the Committee regarding the Statement of Alleged Violation together with any views submitted by the respondent pursuant to subparagraph (2), and the Committee shall make the report, together with the respondent's

views, available to the public before the commencement of any sanction hearing; and

(4) the Committee shall by an affirmative vote of a majority of its members issue a report and transmit such report to the House of Representatives, together with the respondent's views previously submitted pursuant to subparagraph (2) and any additional views respondent may submit for attachment to the final report; and

(d) Members of the Committee shall have not less than 72 hours to review any report transmitted to the Committee by an investigative subcommittee before both the commencement of a sanction hearing and the Committee vote on whether to adopt the report.

RULE 22. RESPONDENT'S ANSWER

(a)(1) Within 30 days from the date of transmittal of a Statement of Alleged Violation, the respondent shall file with the investigative subcommittee an answer, in writing and under oath, signed by respondent and respondent's counsel. Failure to file an answer within the time prescribed shall be considered by the Committee as a denial of each count.

(2) The answer shall contain an admission to or denial of each count set forth in the Statement of Alleged Violation and may include negative, affirmative, or alternative defenses and any supporting evidence or other relevant information.

(b) The respondent may file a Motion for a Bill of Particulars within 10 days of the date of transmittal of the Statement of Alleged Violation. If a Motion for a Bill of Particulars is filed, the respondent shall not be required to file an answer until 20 days after the subcommittee has replied to such motion.

(c)(1) The respondent may file a Motion to Dismiss within 10 days of the date of transmittal of the Statement of Alleged Violation or, if a Motion for a Bill of Particulars has been filed, within 10 days of the date of the subcommittee's reply to the Motion for a Bill of Particulars. If a Motion to Dismiss is filed, the respondent shall not be required to file an answer until 20 days after the subcommittee has replied to the Motion to Dismiss, unless the respondent previously filed a Motion for a Bill of Particulars, in which case the respondent shall not be required to file an answer until 10 days after the subcommittee has replied to the Motion to Dismiss. The investigative subcommittee shall rule upon any motion to dismiss filed during the period between the establishment of the subcommittee and the subcommittee's transmittal of a report or Statement of Alleged Violation to the Committee or to the Chair and Ranking Minority Member at the conclusion of an inquiry, and no appeal of the subcommittee's ruling shall lie to the Committee.

(2) A Motion to Dismiss may be made on the grounds that the Statement of Alleged Violation fails to state facts that constitute a violation of the Code of Official Conduct or other applicable law, rule, regulation, or standard of conduct, or on the grounds that the Committee lacks jurisdiction to consider the allegations contained in the Statement.

(d) Any motion filed with the subcommittee pursuant to this rule shall be accompanied by a Memorandum of Points and Authorities.

(e)(1) The Chair of the investigative subcommittee, for good cause shown, may permit the respondent to file an answer or motion after the day prescribed above.

(2) If the ability of the respondent to present an adequate defense is not adversely affected and special circumstances so require, the Chair of the investigative subcommittee may direct the respondent to file

an answer or motion prior to the day prescribed above.

(f) If the day on which any answer, motion, reply, or other pleading must be filed falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or public holiday, such filing shall be made on the first business day thereafter.

(g) As soon as practicable after an answer has been filed or the time for such filing has expired, the Statement of Alleged Violation and any answer, motion, reply, or other pleading connected therewith shall be transmitted by the Chair of the investigative subcommittee to the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee.

RULE 23. ADJUDICATORY HEARINGS

(a) If a Statement of Alleged Violation is transmitted to the Chair and Ranking Minority Member pursuant to Rule 22, and no waiver pursuant to Rule 26(b) has occurred, the Chair shall designate the members of the Committee who did not serve on the investigative subcommittee to serve on an adjudicatory subcommittee. The Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall be the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the adjudicatory subcommittee unless they served on the investigative subcommittee. The respondent shall be notified of the designation of the adjudicatory subcommittee and shall have 10 days after such notice is transmitted to object to the participation of any subcommittee member. Such objection shall be in writing and shall be on the grounds that the member cannot render an impartial and unbiased decision. The members of the Committee shall engage in a collegial discussion regarding such objection. The member against whom the objection is made shall be the sole judge of any disqualification and may choose to seek disqualification from serving on the subcommittee pursuant to Rule 9(e).

(b) A majority of the adjudicatory subcommittee membership plus one must be present at all times for the conduct of any business pursuant to this rule.

(c) The adjudicatory subcommittee shall hold a hearing to determine whether any counts in the Statement of Alleged Violation have been proved by clear and convincing evidence and shall make findings of fact, except where such violations have been admitted by respondent.

(d) The subcommittee may require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and production of such books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers, documents, and other items as it deems necessary. A subpoena for documents may specify terms of return other than at a meeting or hearing of the subcommittee. Depositions, interrogatories, and sworn statements taken under any investigative subcommittee direction may be accepted into the hearing record.

(e) The procedures set forth in clause 2(g)(1)–(4), (6)–(7) and (k) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives shall apply to adjudicatory hearings. All such hearings shall be open to the public unless the adjudicatory subcommittee, pursuant to such clause, determines that the hearings or any part thereof should be closed.

(f)(1) The adjudicatory subcommittee shall, in writing, notify the respondent that the respondent and respondent's counsel have the right to inspect, review, copy, or photograph books, papers, documents, photographs, or other tangible objects that committee counsel intends to use as evidence against the respondent in an adjudicatory hearing. The respondent shall be given access to such evidence, and shall be provided the names of witnesses committee counsel intends to call, and a summary of their expected testimony, no less than 15 calendar days prior to any

such hearing. Except in extraordinary circumstances, no evidence may be introduced or witness called in an adjudicatory hearing unless the respondent has been afforded a prior opportunity to review such evidence or has been provided the name of the witness.

(2) After a witness has testified on direct examination at an adjudicatory hearing, the Committee, at the request of the respondent, shall make available to the respondent any statement of the witness in the possession of the Committee which relates to the subject matter as to which the witness has testified.

(3) Any other testimony, statement, or documentary evidence in the possession of the Committee which is material to the respondent's defense shall, upon request, be made available to the respondent.

(g) No less than 5 days prior to the hearing, the respondent or counsel shall provide the adjudicatory subcommittee with the names of witnesses expected to be called, summaries of their expected testimony, and copies of any documents or other evidence proposed to be introduced.

(h) The respondent or counsel may apply to the subcommittee for the issuance of subpoenas for the appearance of witnesses or the production of evidence. The application shall be granted upon a showing by the respondent that the proposed testimony or evidence is relevant and not otherwise available to respondent. The application may be denied if not made at a reasonable time or if the testimony or evidence would be merely cumulative.

(i) No later than two weeks or 5 legislative days after the Chair of the Committee designates members to serve on an adjudicatory subcommittee, whichever is later, the Chair of the adjudicatory subcommittee shall establish a schedule and procedure for the hearing and for prehearing matters. The procedures may be changed either by the Chair of the adjudicatory subcommittee or a by a majority vote of the members of the subcommittee. If the Chair makes prehearing rulings upon any question of admissibility or relevance of evidence, motion, procedure, or any other matter, the Chair shall make available those rulings to all subcommittee members at the time of the ruling.

(j) The procedures regarding the admissibility of evidence and rulings shall be as follows:

(1) Any relevant evidence shall be admissible unless the evidence is privileged under the precedents of the House of Representatives.

(2) The Chair of the subcommittee or other presiding member at an adjudicatory subcommittee hearing shall rule upon any question of admissibility or relevance of evidence, motion, procedure, or any other matter, and may direct any witness to answer any question under penalty of contempt. A witness, witness counsel, or a member of the subcommittee may appeal any ruling to the members present at that proceeding. A majority vote of the members present at such proceeding on such an appeal shall govern the question of admissibility and no appeal shall lie to the Committee.

(3) Whenever a witness is deemed by a Chair or other presiding member to be in contempt of the subcommittee, the matter may be referred to the Committee to determine whether to refer the matter to the House of Representatives for consideration.

(4) Committee counsel may, subject to subcommittee approval, enter into stipulations with the respondent and/or the respondent's counsel as to facts that are not in dispute.

(k) Unless otherwise provided, the order of an adjudicatory hearing shall be as follows:

(1) The Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the subcommittee shall open the hearing with equal time and during which time,

the Chair shall state the adjudicatory subcommittee's authority to conduct the hearing and the purpose of the hearing.

(2) The Chair shall then recognize Committee counsel and the respondent's counsel, in turn, for the purpose of giving opening statements.

(3) Testimony from witnesses and other relevant evidence shall be received in the following order whenever possible:

(i) witnesses (deposition transcripts and affidavits obtained during the inquiry may be used in lieu of live witnesses) and other evidence offered by Committee counsel,

(ii) witnesses and other evidence offered by the respondent,

(iii) rebuttal witnesses, as permitted by the Chair.

(4) Witnesses at a hearing shall be examined first by counsel calling such witness. The opposing counsel may then cross-examine the witness. Redirect examination and recross examination by counsel may be permitted at the Chair's discretion. Subcommittee members may then question witnesses. Unless otherwise directed by the Chair, questions by Subcommittee members shall be conducted under the five-minute rule.

(5) The Chair shall then recognize Committee counsel and respondent's counsel, in turn, for the purpose of giving closing arguments. Committee counsel may reserve time for rebuttal argument, as permitted by the Chair.

(1) A subpoena to a witness to appear at a hearing shall be served sufficiently in advance of that witness' scheduled appearance to allow the witness a reasonable period of time, as determined by the Chair of the adjudicatory subcommittee, to prepare for the hearing and to employ counsel.

(m) Each witness appearing before the subcommittee shall be furnished a printed or electronic copy of the Committee rules, the relevant provisions of the Rules of the House of Representatives applicable to the rights of witnesses, and a copy of the Statement of Alleged Violation.

(n) Testimony of all witnesses shall be taken under oath or affirmation. The form of the oath or affirmation shall be: "Do you solemnly swear (or affirm) that the testimony you will give before this subcommittee in the matter now under consideration will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth (so help you God)?" The oath or affirmation shall be administered by the Chair or Committee member designated by the Chair to administer oaths.

(o) At an adjudicatory hearing, the burden of proof rests on Committee counsel to establish the facts alleged in the Statement of Alleged Violation by clear and convincing evidence. However, Committee counsel need not present any evidence regarding any count that is admitted by the respondent or any fact stipulated. Committee counsel or respondent's counsel may move the adjudicatory subcommittee to make a finding that there is no material fact at issue. If the adjudicatory subcommittee finds that there is no material fact at issue, the burden of proof will be deemed satisfied.

(p) As soon as practicable after all testimony and evidence have been presented, the subcommittee shall consider each count contained in the Statement of Alleged Violation and shall determine by a majority vote of its members whether each count has been proved. If a majority of the subcommittee does not vote that a count has been proved, a motion to reconsider that vote may be made only by a member who voted that the count was not proved. A count that is not proved shall be considered as dismissed by the subcommittee.

(q) The findings of the adjudicatory subcommittee shall be reported to the Committee.

RULE 24. SANCTION HEARING AND CONSIDERATION OF SANCTIONS OR OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) If no count in a Statement of Alleged Violation is proved, the Committee shall prepare a report to the House of Representatives, based upon the report of the adjudicatory subcommittee.

(b) If an adjudicatory subcommittee completes an adjudicatory hearing pursuant to Rule 23 and reports that any count of the Statement of Alleged Violation has been proved, a hearing before the Committee shall be held to receive oral and/or written submissions by counsel for the Committee and counsel for the respondent as to the sanction the Committee should recommend to the House of Representatives with respect to such violations. Testimony by witnesses shall not be heard except by written request and vote of a majority of the Committee.

(c) Upon completion of any proceeding held pursuant to clause (b), the Committee shall consider and vote on a motion to recommend to the House of Representatives that the House take disciplinary action. If a majority of the Committee does not vote in favor of the recommendation that the House of Representatives take action, a motion to reconsider that vote may be made only by a member who voted against the recommendation. The Committee may also, by majority vote, adopt a motion to issue a Letter of Reprimand or take other appropriate Committee action.

(d) If the Committee determines a Letter of Reprimand constitutes sufficient action, the Committee shall include any such letter as a part of its report to the House of Representatives.

(e) With respect to any proved counts against a Member of the House of Representatives, the Committee may recommend to the House one or more of the following sanctions:

(1) Expulsion from the House of Representatives.

(2) Censure.

(3) Reprimand.

(4) Fine.

(5) Denial or limitation of any right, power, privilege, or immunity of the Member if under the Constitution the House of Representatives may impose such denial or limitation.

(6) Any other sanction determined by the Committee to be appropriate.

(f) With respect to any proved counts against an officer or employee of the House of Representatives, the Committee may recommend to the House one or more of the following sanctions:

(1) Dismissal from employment.

(2) Reprimand.

(3) Fine.

(4) Any other sanction determined by the Committee to be appropriate.

(g) With respect to the sanctions that the Committee may recommend, reprimand is appropriate for serious violations, censure is appropriate for more serious violations, and expulsion of a Member or dismissal of an officer or employee is appropriate for the most serious violations. A recommendation of a fine is appropriate in a case in which it is likely that the violation was committed to secure a personal financial benefit; and a recommendation of a denial or limitation of a right, power, privilege, or immunity of a Member is appropriate when the violation bears upon the exercise or holding of such right, power, privilege, or immunity. This clause sets forth general guidelines and does not limit the authority of the Committee to recommend other sanctions.

(h) The Committee report shall contain an appropriate statement of the evidence supporting the Committee's findings and a

statement of the Committee's reasons for the recommended sanction.

RULE 25. DISCLOSURE OF EXCULPATORY INFORMATION TO RESPONDENT

If the Committee, or any investigative or adjudicatory subcommittee at any time receives any exculpatory information respecting a Complaint or Statement of Alleged Violation concerning a respondent, it shall make such information known and available to the respondent as soon as practicable, but in no event later than the transmittal of evidence supporting a proposed Statement of Alleged Violation pursuant to Rule 26(c). If an investigative subcommittee does not adopt a Statement of Alleged Violation, it shall identify any exculpatory information in its possession at the conclusion of its inquiry and shall include such information, if any, in the subcommittee's final report to the Committee regarding its inquiry. For purposes of this rule, exculpatory evidence shall be any evidence or information that is substantially favorable to the respondent with respect to the allegations or charges before an investigative or adjudicatory subcommittee.

RULE 26. RIGHTS OF RESPONDENTS AND WITNESSES

(a) A respondent shall be informed of the right to be represented by counsel, to be provided at the respondent's own expense.

(b) A respondent may seek to waive any procedural rights or steps in the disciplinary process. A request for waiver must be in writing, signed by the respondent, and must detail what procedural steps the respondent seeks to waive. Any such request shall be subject to the acceptance of the Committee or subcommittee, as appropriate.

(c) Not less than 10 calendar days before a scheduled vote by an investigative subcommittee on a Statement of Alleged Violation, the subcommittee shall provide the respondent with a copy of the Statement of Alleged Violation it intends to adopt together with all evidence it intends to use to prove those charges which it intends to adopt, including documentary evidence, witness testimony, memoranda of witness interviews, and physical evidence, unless the subcommittee by an affirmative vote of a majority of its members decides to withhold certain evidence in order to protect a witness, but if such evidence is withheld, the subcommittee shall inform the respondent that evidence is being withheld and of the count to which such evidence relates.

(d) Neither the respondent nor respondent's counsel shall, directly or indirectly, contact the subcommittee or any member thereof during the period of time set forth in paragraph (c) except for the sole purpose of settlement discussions where counsels for the respondent and the subcommittee are present.

(e) If, at any time after the issuance of a Statement of Alleged Violation, the Committee or any subcommittee thereof determines that it intends to use evidence not provided to a respondent under paragraph (c) to prove the charges contained in the Statement of Alleged Violation (or any amendment thereof), such evidence shall be made immediately available to the respondent, and it may be used in any further proceeding under the Committee's rules.

(f) Evidence provided pursuant to paragraph (c) or (e) shall be made available to the respondent and respondent's counsel only after each agrees, in writing, that no document, information, or other materials obtained pursuant to that paragraph shall be made public until—

(1) such time as a Statement of Alleged Violation is made public by the Committee if the respondent has waived the adjudicatory hearing; or

(2) the commencement of an adjudicatory hearing if the respondent has not waived an adjudicatory hearing; but the failure of respondent and respondent's counsel to so agree in writing, and therefore not receive the evidence, shall not preclude the issuance of a Statement of Alleged Violation at the end of the period referenced to in (c).

(g) If the Committee issues a report with respect to a claim referred to the Committee by the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights pursuant to Section 416(e) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995, the Committee shall ensure that the report does not directly disclose the identity or position of the individual who filed the claim.

(h) A respondent shall receive written notice whenever—

(1) the Chair and Ranking Minority Member determine that information the Committee has received constitutes a complaint;

(2) a complaint or allegation is transmitted to an investigative subcommittee;

(3) that subcommittee votes to authorize its first subpoena or to take testimony under oath, whichever occurs first;

(4) the Committee votes to expand the scope of the inquiry of an investigative subcommittee; and

(5) the Committee or an investigative subcommittee determines to take into evidence the trial transcript or exhibits admitted into evidence at a criminal trial pursuant to Rule 18(e)(3).

(i) Whenever an investigative subcommittee adopts a Statement of Alleged Violation and a respondent enters into an agreement with that subcommittee to settle an investigation, in whole or in part, on which the Statement is based, that agreement, unless the respondent requests otherwise, shall be in writing and signed by the respondent and the respondent's counsel, the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the subcommittee, and outside counsel, if any.

(j) Statements or information derived solely from a respondent or respondent's counsel during any settlement discussions between the Committee or a subcommittee thereof and the respondent shall not be included in any report of the subcommittee or the Committee or otherwise publicly disclosed without the consent of the respondent.

(k) Whenever a motion to establish an investigative subcommittee does not prevail, the Committee shall promptly send a letter to the respondent(s) informing the respondent(s) of such vote.

(l) Witnesses shall be afforded a reasonable period of time, as determined by the Committee or subcommittee, to prepare for an appearance before an investigative subcommittee or for an adjudicatory hearing and to obtain counsel.

(m) Prior to their testimony, witnesses shall be furnished a printed or electronic copy of the Committee's Rules and the provisions of the Rules of the House of Representatives applicable to the rights of witnesses.

(n) Witnesses may be accompanied by their own counsel for the purpose of advising them concerning their constitutional rights. The Chair may punish breaches of order and decorum, and of professional responsibility on the part of counsel, by censure and exclusion from the hearings; and the Committee may cite the offender to the House of Representatives for contempt.

(o) Each witness subpoenaed to provide testimony or other evidence shall be provided the same per diem rate as established, authorized, and regulated by the Committee on House Administration for Members, officers, and employees of the House, and, as the Chair considers appropriate, actual expenses of travel to or from the place of examination. No compensation shall be authorized

for attorney's fees or for a witness' lost earnings. Such per diem may not be paid if a witness had been summoned at the place of examination.

(p) With the approval of the Committee, a witness, upon request, may be provided with a transcript of the witness' own deposition or other testimony taken in executive session, or, with the approval of the Chair and Ranking Minority Member, may be permitted to examine such transcript in the office of the Committee. Any such request shall be in writing and shall include a statement that the witness, and counsel, agree to maintain the confidentiality of all executive session proceedings covered by such transcript.

RULE 27. FRIVOLOUS FILINGS

If a complaint or information offered as a complaint is deemed frivolous by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Committee, the Committee may take such action as it, by an affirmative vote of a majority deems appropriate in the circumstances.

RULE 28. REFERRALS TO FEDERAL OR STATE AUTHORITIES

Referrals made under clause 3(a)(3) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives may be made by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the Committee.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 725. An act to change the address of the postal facility designated in honor of Captain Humayun Khan; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker on Friday, March 8, 2019, announced her signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 49—An act to designate the outstation of the Department of Veterans Affairs in North Ogden, Utah, as the Major Brent Taylor Vet Center Outstation.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, March 12, 2019, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF PAYGO LEGISLATION

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 758, the Cooperate with Law Enforcement Agencies and Watch Act of 2019, would have no significant effect on direct spending or revenues, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YAR-

MUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 974, the Federal Reserve Supervision Testimony Clarification Act, would have no significant effect on direct spending or revenues, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. DESAULNIER: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 208. Resolution providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 24) expressing the sense of Congress that the report of Special Counsel Mueller should be made available to the public and to Congress, and providing for proceedings during the period from March 15, 2019, through March 22, 2019 (Rept. 116-17). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. MARCHANT (for himself and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama):

H.R. 1662. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to establish a pilot program to provide grants to secondary schools for assistive technology devices and assistive technology services and to create programs to benefit students with autism or apraxia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. CHABOT (for himself and Mr. RASKIN):

H.R. 1663. A bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to revise the Federal charter for the Foundation of the Federal Bar Association; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah (for himself, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. STEWART, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. WESTERMAN, and Mr. CURTIS):

H.R. 1664. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to reform the Antiquities Act of 1906, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. STEVENS (for herself and Mr. BAIRD):

H.R. 1665. A bill to direct the National Science Foundation to support STEM education research focused on early childhood; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida (for herself and Mr. LUETKEMEYER):

H.R. 1666. A bill to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to allow for the consideration of private flood insurance for the purposes of applying continuous coverage requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER (for himself and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 1667. A bill to require a report on the contingency plan of the Department of Transportation in the event of the failure of a rail track in the North River Tunnel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois (for herself, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. BUDD, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. MAR-

SHALL, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. SOTO, Mr. WALKER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. FOSTER, and Mr. BAIRD):

H.R. 1668. A bill to leverage Federal Government procurement power to encourage increased cybersecurity for Internet of Things devices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KING of New York (for himself, Miss RICE of New York, and Mr. SUOZZI):

H.R. 1669. A bill to direct the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating to study and report to the Congress regarding recreational vessel operator training; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 1670. A bill to prevent gun trafficking; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. QUIGLEY (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. KING of New York, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. UPTON, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LAMB, Mr. STIVERS, Ms. DEAN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. KATKO, and Mr. BACON):

H.R. 1671. A bill to provide for the reporting to State and local law enforcement authorities of cases in which the national instant criminal background check system indicates that a firearm has been sought to be acquired by a prohibited person, so that authorities may pursue criminal charges under State law, and to ensure that the Department of Justice reports to Congress on prosecutions secured against prohibited persons who attempt to acquire a firearm; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROONEY of Florida:

H.R. 1672. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to ensure that public institutions of higher education protect expressive activities in the outdoor areas on campus; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia (for himself, Mr. DUNN, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, and Mr. SCHRADER):

H.R. 1673. A bill to amend the Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act of 1999 with respect to the definition of agricultural commodities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. TIPTON (for himself and Mr. CROW):

H.R. 1674. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to expedite the onboarding process for new medical providers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to reduce the duration of the hiring process for such medical providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. TLAIB (for herself and Ms. KELLY of Illinois):

H.R. 1675. A bill to require a study on the public health and environmental impacts of the production, transportation, storage, and use of petroleum coke, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. POCAN,

Mr. KILMER, Ms. TITUS, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CRIST, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. TONKO, Mr. VELA, Mr. COHEN, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. SCHA-KOWSKY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. WILD, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. RYAN, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CORREA, Mr. PAL-LONE, and Ms. MCCOLLUM):

H.R. 1676. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to expand access to school-wide arts and music programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. YOHO (for himself, Mr. CON-NOLLY, and Mr. MCCAULY):

H.R. 1677. A bill to repeal certain foreign affairs reporting requirements; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H. Res. 207. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Oversight and Reform in the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself and Mrs. RODGERS of Washington):

H. Res. 209. A resolution declaring support for Brain Awareness Week; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS (for himself and Mr. WALKER):

H. Res. 210. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the month of April 2019 as Second Chance Month; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri):

H. Res. 211. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H. Res. 212. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Ethics in the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. LAWSON of Florida (for himself, Mr. POSEY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. MAST, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. DUNN, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. SPANO, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mrs. MURPHY, Mr. DEUTCH, and Mr. SOTO):

H. Res. 213. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Women Veterans Recognition Week; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. PANETTA (for himself and Mr. MAST):

H. Res. 214. A resolution supporting the goals to protect United States military personnel from malaria; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself and Mr. NUNES):

H. Res. 215. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence in the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself and Ms. NORTON):

H. Res. 216. A resolution expressing support for designation of March 2019 as Music in Our Schools Month; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. MARCHANT:

H.R. 1662.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 1: To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 1663.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, clause 18, that the Congress shall have Power To . . . make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah:

H.R. 1664.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, clause 2

By Ms. STEVENS:

H.R. 1665.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:

H.R. 1666.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce in and among the states, as enumerate in Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER:

H.R. 1667.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 1668.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. KING of New York:

H.R. 1669.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 1670.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. QUIGLEY:

H.R. 1671.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. ROONEY of Florida:

H.R. 1672.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia:

H.R. 1673.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. TIPTON:

H.R. 1674.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

section 8 of Article I of Constitution

By Ms. TLAIB:

H.R. 1675.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 provides Congress with the power to “regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 1676.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to . . . provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States; . . .

By Mr. YOHO:

H.R. 1677.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

- H.R. 20: Mr. ADERHOLT.
- H.R. 33: Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Ms. DEAN.
- H.R. 35: Ms. DEAN, Mr. ROSE of New York, Ms. WATERS, Mr. RASKIN, and Mr. VISLOSKEY.
- H.R. 36: Ms. DEAN, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. PALLONE.
- H.R. 51: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
- H.R. 55: Ms. CLARKE of New York.
- H.R. 125: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
- H.R. 155: Mr. BACON.
- H.R. 194: Mr. RESCENTIALER.
- H.R. 230: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois and Mr. THOMPSON of California.
- H.R. 273: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
- H.R. 275: Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.
- H.R. 303: Mr. KATKO, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. SCHRADER, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
- H.R. 330: Miss RICE of New York and Mr. TAKANO.
- H.R. 402: Mr. BIGGS and Mr. STANTON.
- H.R. 435: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. UNDERWOOD, and Mrs. DINGELL.
- H.R. 490: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.
- H.R. 510: Mr. WALDEN, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, and Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico.
- H.R. 511: Ms. DEAN.
- H.R. 530: Mr. ENGEL.
- H.R. 535: Mr. NEGUSE.
- H.R. 553: Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CROW, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. ARMSTRONG, and Mr. BRINDISI.
- H.R. 568: Mr. TRONE.
- H.R. 582: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
- H.R. 596: Mr. TAYLOR.
- H.R. 613: Mr. MCADAMS, Mr. RUTHERFORD, and Mr. CURTIS.

- H.R. 651: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire and Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
H.R. 663: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 665: Mr. NEGUSE and Ms. JAYAPAL.
H.R. 692: Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 693: Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. KIND.
H.R. 728: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 736: Mr. TAYLOR.
H.R. 737: Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CASE, Mr. CORREA, Mr. COX of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. OLSON, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. WRIGHT.
H.R. 738: Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 748: Mrs. HAYES, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. BAIRD, and Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 757: Mrs. LEE of Nevada.
H.R. 758: Mr. TAYLOR.
H.R. 761: Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 803: Mr. MARSHALL.
H.R. 808: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 856: Mr. GIANFORTE.
H.R. 864: Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 874: Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 878: Mr. HURD of Texas.
H.R. 890: Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 919: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H.R. 925: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 943: Mr. ZELDIN, Ms. MENG, Mr. KATKO, and Mr. RASKIN.
H.R. 945: Mr. MOULTON and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 959: Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. BRADY, Mr. MEADOWS, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. KING of Iowa, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.
H.R. 960: Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. BRADY, Mr. MEADOWS, Ms. STEFANIK, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.
H.R. 965: Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. COLE, Mr. GALLAGHER, and Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 973: Mr. CISNEROS and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 974: Mr. TAYLOR.
H.R. 983: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Ms. WILD.
H.R. 985: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 997: Mr. NORMAN.
H.R. 1002: Ms. HAALAND, Mr. KIND, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 1019: Mr. BERGMAN.
H.R. 1049: Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 1058: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. KIM, and Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 1074: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 1080: Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Mr. CORREA.
H.R. 1108: Mr. BACON, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ESTES, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. MAST, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. SUOZZI, and Mr. YOUNG.
H.R. 1126: Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana.
H.R. 1134: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 1137: Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL.
H.R. 1139: Mr. CLEAVER and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 1142: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 1153: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 1163: Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 1169: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 1185: Mr. VISCLOSKY and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H.R. 1225: Mrs. MCBATH, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. CUELLAR, and Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 1226: Ms. PINGREE, Mr. RUTHERFORD, and Mr. CROW.
H.R. 1233: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 1234: Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 1266: Mr. KHANNA and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 1279: Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 1292: Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas.
H.R. 1297: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 1300: Mr. BEYER, Ms. MOORE, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Ms. WILD.
H.R. 1309: Mrs. HAYES, Mr. VISCLOSKY, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. RYAN.
H.R. 1327: Mr. CROW, Mr. POCAN, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 1339: Mr. GUTHRIE.
H.R. 1342: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. MATSUI, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. POCAN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Mr. HECK.
H.R. 1346: Ms. SCANLON.
H.R. 1366: Mr. BIGGS, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. KATKO, and Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 1368: Ms. SCANLON.
H.R. 1379: Mr. PHILLIPS and Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 1380: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. TONKO, Mr. KIND, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 1396: Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. COHEN, Mr. KILMER, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. BUSTOS, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.R. 1404: Mr. TAYLOR.
H.R. 1407: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. CROW.
H.R. 1411: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 1412: Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 1414: Mr. TAYLOR.
H.R. 1418: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 1420: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 1423: Mr. CROW.
H.R. 1425: Mr. HECK.
H.R. 1433: Miss RICE of New York and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 1435: Mr. BERA.
H.R. 1479: Mr. GOLDEN.
H.R. 1497: Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. COHEN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 1512: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 1528: Mr. TONKO and Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 1534: Mr. COHEN and Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 1536: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 1545: Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. BYRNE, and Mr. NORMAN.
H.R. 1560: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 1569: Mr. STANTON.
H.R. 1570: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. RUTHERFORD, and Mr. COLE.
H.R. 1572: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 1576: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 1582: Mr. TAYLOR.
H.R. 1595: Mr. AMODEI, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. POCAN, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H.R. 1603: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.
H.R. 1605: Mr. NORMAN and Mr. HOLDING.
H.R. 1617: Mr. TAYLOR.
H.R. 1620: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, and Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 1622: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. COHEN, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. KILMER, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. NORTON, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SOTO, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. TITUS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. HAALAND, and Ms. HILL of California.
H.R. 1627: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Ms. GABBARD.
H.R. 1643: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Mr. POCAN.
H.J. Res. 2: Mr. DELGADO.
H.J. Res. 38: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. VELA, Mr. TRONE, and Mr. DEUTCH.
H. Con. Res. 20: Mr. KATKO and Mr. HARDER of California.
H. Con. Res. 24: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. DOGGETT.
H. Res. 23: Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. LAHOOD.
H. Res. 39: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.
H. Res. 60: Mr. VISCLOSKY and Mr. CROW.
H. Res. 72: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H. Res. 88: Mr. KENNEDY and Mr. LYNCH.
H. Res. 107: Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. TAYLOR.
H. Res. 116: Mr. HIMES, Mr. HUDSON, and Mrs. HARTZLER.
H. Res. 129: Mr. LEVIN of Michigan and Mr. SUOZZI.
H. Res. 133: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN and Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.
H. Res. 154: Ms. WEXTON.
H. Res. 156: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. TAYLOR, and Ms. NORTON.
H. Res. 171: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. CUMMINGS.
H. Res. 173: Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. CRIST, and Mr. CARBAJAL.
H. Res. 177: Mr. ALLRED.
H. Res. 190: Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. LOFGREN, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.



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No. 43

Senate

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

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Spirit of God, who brought creation out of the void, light from darkness, and order from chaos, everything under Heaven belongs to You. Lord, use our lawmakers for Your glory. May their daily experiences of joy and sorrow, pleasure and pain, victory and defeat, bring honor to Your Name. Remind our Senators that no evil can stop the unfolding of Your purposes and providence. Lead them this day with Your merciful hands, providing for their needs. Bless all who labor for liberty, protecting them with the shield of Your love.

We pray in Your holy 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROMNEY). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

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

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Paul B. Matey, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 minute.

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

SECRET HOLDS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, it is Sunshine Week, and I support transparency throughout government. The public's business ought to be public. That includes right here in the U.S. Senate.

My newer colleagues might be unaware that the Senate has banned what are referred to as secret holds. Since January 2011, a standing order has been in effect, requiring that Senators make public any hold they place on bills or nominations.

A Senator, of course, has a right to withhold consent when unanimous consent is needed to move to a measure. However, there is absolutely no right to do so in secret. The public's business ought to be done in public.

That is why Senator WYDEN and I sent a letter to all Senators reminding them of this standing order that we authored requiring disclosure of holds.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 1 more minute.

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

Mr. GRASSLEY. When Senators spend most of their time on the Senate floor, as they used to before the Senate was on television, it was easy for any Senator to stand up and say "I object," if consent were asked for any motion or any nomination. Now we spend most of our time in committee hearings and meeting with those we represent. We rely on our party leadership to protect

our rights, and we sometimes tell them if we need someone to object on our behalf to moving a bill or a nominee. That happens to be called a hold. A hold should not be secret, I want everybody to know that sometimes I put holds on nominations or bills.

Whoever heard of shouting "I object" in secret? A hold, in other words, ought to be public, as the standing order requires. The Senate affirmed that in the year 2011 by adopting a permanent standing order that Senator WYDEN and I wrote. I remind my colleagues, that standing order is still in place.

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

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

THE GREEN NEW DEAL

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, in the last couple of weeks, I have come to the floor for a few short comments on the Green New Deal. I have compared it to the New Deal of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt administration and its attempt to get us out of the Depression with the New Deal then.

In his 1932 campaign for President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt called for what he called a "bold persistent experimentation." That is a pretty good description of the New Deal. It wasn't a very cohesive plan, but it was a collection of disconnected policies. In that sense, the Green New Deal emulates its namesake. It, too, is kind of a collection of disconnected policies.

The New Deal of the 1930s failed to pull the economy out of the Depression that actually ended at the beginning of World War II. It is not surprising, however, that it didn't pull us out of the Depression because it didn't create economic growth. Economic growth needs

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



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predictable and sensible tax and regulatory policies. We have seen the fruits of this approach under the Trump administration. So let's not, through the Green Deal, kill the goose that laid the golden egg.

The Green New Deal is both breathtaking in its professed ambitions and, quite frankly, laughably weak. It is just a resolution calling on the government to enact a whole range of policies.

Then, why not introduce a bill that actually does something rather than a resolution calling for future implausible actions?

It is supposed to be about protecting the environment. As someone with a track record of real bipartisan achievements that have resulted in a cleaner environment, I don't get it. If you want to know my credentials there, I am the father of the wind energy tax credit, just as an example. We get 38 percent of our electricity from wind in Iowa.

What do universal healthcare—another item of the Green New Deal—or free college tuition or a Federal jobs guarantee program have to do with the environment anyway? All of those things are in the Green New Deal.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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 (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader is recognized.

DECLARATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY

Mr. SCHUMER. By the end of this week, the Senate will vote on a resolution to terminate the President's emergency declaration. I have laid out the number of reasons why the Senate must vote to terminate. The President has not demonstrated that an emergency exists. During the announcement of the declaration, the President said he "didn't need to do this." A few weeks later, 58 former national security officials, including former Secretaries of State and Defense, said there was "no factual basis" for an emergency declaration. For the sake of the facts, the Senate must vote to terminate.

We also have no idea which military construction projects might be on the chopping block. Republican Senators who vote against this declaration do so at their own peril. They may be voting to deprive necessary funds from military installations in their States. For the sake of the brave men and women of our Armed Forces, the Senate must vote to terminate.

Of course, the constitutional questions loom largest. The President failed to convince Congress, the American people, and, perhaps most glaringly, Mexico to pay for his border

wall. Now he is attempting to use emergency powers to subvert the will of Congress. If allowed to stand, this emergency declaration would be a defacement of our constitutional order and one of the largest power grabs for the executive branch in the more than 200 years this Nation has been in existence.

My colleagues must contemplate the possibility that if President Trump were to succeed with his phony emergency declaration, future Presidents would have a precedent to claim emergencies whenever Congress failed to endorse their policies. In effect, Congress would no longer be a coequal branch of government. It would change the balance of power rather dramatically in ways the Founding Fathers would never have contemplated. In fact, it would horrify many of the Founding Fathers, who were so worried about an overweening Executive in the personage of King George.

I know many of my Republican friends are afraid to cross the President. We know he can be vindictive. I know that several support the idea of building a wall but want to oppose the emergency declaration. I would say to my colleagues respectfully: You have been able to express your support for a border wall numerous times in the past Congress and in this one. Another amendment vote will accomplish nothing new; it will only poison Congress's ability to pass this resolution.

This is not about policy at our southern border; this is about one thing and one thing alone—Presidential overreach.

Later this week, the Senate ought to vote a clean resolution to terminate the emergency. The bottom line is very simple: If we were upholding the Constitution, it would be 100 to nothing against the emergency. If there were no politics, no fear, no worry about crossing a President, the vote would be 100 to nothing. If people read the Federalist Papers and the Constitution and what the Founding Fathers intended, the vote would be 100 to nothing. I hope it is as close to that as is possible.

BUDGET PROPOSAL

Mr. President, earlier today, the Trump administration released its annual request. In recent years, these budget requests have become statements of principles and priorities rather than working documents. Purely as a statement of principle, the latest budget proposal from the Trump administration is not only extremely disturbing, but it is totally against what the President talks about when he talks to his supporters.

The budget request we received today would be a gut punch to the middle class and a handout to powerful special interests and the wealthiest few. It would dismantle America's healthcare system as we know it, and it would dramatically widen the gap in income and wealth between our Nation's richest citizens and the rest.

Now listen to this: The President talks about how he wants to get better healthcare for Americans. Certainly our Republican colleagues do. By cutting healthcare coverage and increasing healthcare costs for millions of Americans, this budget belies those promises. President Trump's budget would repeal the entire Affordable Care Act, taking away insurance from 32 million Americans and eliminating protections for Americans with pre-existing conditions. How many Republicans are for that?

How about this: \$1.5 trillion in cuts to Medicaid, \$845 billion in cuts to Medicare, \$506 billion in cuts to tax credits that help lower income Americans afford insurance. Not only is this cruel, it is hypocritical. It is against everything our Republican friends talk about. It is against what the President says. He is going to preserve Medicare and Medicaid, and then he slashes them. It still befuddles me how he can get away with this even in these times.

Second, the budget slashes domestic programs, including investments in infrastructure, housing, education, and the environment—a third of the EPA budget and one-fifth of the Department of Transportation budget.

My Republican friends, when your commissioners and Governors come to you and say they need more highway funds, are you going to support a budget that cuts them by 20 percent?

On top of all this, it gives more tax breaks to the wealthiest few. It would permanently extend the Trump tax cuts, costing \$1.9 trillion over 10 years. Seventy percent of the benefits go to the top one-fifth of America. The staggering costs of these tax cuts are the reason for all the proposed cuts to healthcare and infrastructure. The Trump budget proposes the blind theft of the middle class to line America's deepest pockets.

It is really a disgraceful budget. My guess is that Mr. Mulvaney at OMB put it together. He was one of the five most rightwing people in the Congress. He wanted to slash everything. The President just green-stamped it so he can tip his hat to those on the very far right.

The vast majority of the President's supporters—they are a dwindling number; they are now less than a third of America—don't support this. They don't support this at all. How many people who count themselves as supporters of President Trump support cutting Medicare by close to \$1 trillion? How many of those who consider themselves supporters of Trump support cutting Medicaid by \$1.5 trillion? How many of the President's closest supporters think we should eliminate protections for preexisting conditions when people have them? How many of the President's supporters want to cut infrastructure by one-fifth or cut the clean water and clean air budget by one-third? Hardly any. This budget is just sort of an "Alice in Wonderland" document.

Of course, it wouldn't be a Trump budget if it didn't include the fantasy of another \$8.6 billion in funding for the border wall. The fiction that Mexico would pay for the wall has long been debunked, although that is what the President ran on, but it is still amazing that the Trump administration proposes year after year that the American taxpayer pay billions of dollars for a border wall that President Trump said would be completely free.

It is difficult to overstate the callousness of President Trump's budget. The cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, and numerous middle-class programs are devastating but maybe not surprising. This budget will be on the backs of the Republicans. They support President Trump.

The Republican Party's systematic efforts to rip away Americans' healthcare, its continued embrace of the tax cuts for the rich, its refusal to accept science, facts, and the urgent need to address climate change have made cruel and unthinkable budget proposals like this one par for the course with our fellow Republicans. It is sad; it is a shame; and it basically is total hypocrisy because not one single Republican would campaign on these proposals.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, this week the Senate will vote on three controversial nominees, including two circuit court judges: Paul Matey for the Third Circuit and Neomi Rao for the DC Circuit, the second most powerful court in the country.

Mr. Matey's nomination, in keeping with Leader MCCONNELL just ripping apart whatever bipartisanship we have left, has advanced without a blue slip from either home State Senator, Mr. BOOKER or Mr. MENENDEZ. In case it wasn't clear how little Republicans care about this once-vaunted tradition, Mr. Matey has skipped even the courtesy of meeting with Senator MENENDEZ.

Mr. Matey has never made an oral argument before a Federal Court of Appeals—never. He barely has any litigation experience either. He has spent most of his career as a political aide to Governor Christie. Yet he is nominated for a lifetime appointment to a circuit court of appeals, not even a district court, where his qualifications would still be questionable, but to a circuit court.

Ms. Neomi Rao, despite her experience, might even be worse. As the Trump administration's regulatory czar, she has been in charge of rolling back consumer protections, environmental protections, and healthcare protections. So as a nominee for the DC Circuit, which hears cases on Federal regulation, Ms. Rao is hopelessly compromised. Yet she refused to commit to recusing herself from regulatory matters on which she has worked when pressed by Senator FEINSTEIN during the Judiciary hearing.

That is to say nothing of Ms. Rao's alarming views. In past writings, Ms.

Rao has expressed skepticism about climate change, called sexual and racial oppression "myths," and argued that independent Federal Agencies are unconstitutional. Perhaps worst of all, she has implied that sexual assault victims are to blame for the despicable crimes committed against them.

Honestly, where do my Republican colleagues find these people? The majority party always nominates judges that have a particular bent, but the Trump administration's nominees, by and large, are not mainstream conservatives; they are rightwing ideologues, many of whom lack the experience, candor, and moderation that we would expect in a public servant, let alone a lifetime judge. For a few of these judges, the sole qualification is not their judicial experience, not their knowledge or erudition, but they are active members of the Federalist Society.

I know this is what my friend the majority leader cares about: a hard-right bench. He doesn't care about their qualifications; he doesn't care about moderation; he doesn't care about representing middle-class people when he nominates these judges. He is running a conveyor belt of political partisans, many with extremely thin legal resumes, onto the courts. He gets a talking point for his base, but the quality of these nominees degrades the Federal bench and cheapens the cause of justice in America.

I will vote no on both Mr. Matey and Ms. Rao, and I strongly urge my colleagues to do the same.

CHINA TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. President, finally, on China—the ongoing negotiations with China have been something I have been following closely. Over the past few weeks, there has been a drumbeat of reporting that the Trump administration is poised to accept a weak trade agreement with China.

Last week, the New York Times reported that China's draft new foreign investment law, meant to pacify the United States, would not include a complete end to the forced technology transfers. The most recent published draft made no mention of preventing national government regulators from demanding technology transfers. This morning, the Times reported that China has agreed to few, if any, major restrictions on how it manages its currency.

For years, China manipulated its currency to suit its purposes, typically devaluing the renminbi to prop up its manufacturers. I was the first, with Senator GRAHAM of South Carolina, back in the early 2000s, to point out China's currency manipulation, and it has continued unabated. In recent days the renminbi has been allowed to rise, but, curiously, it fell 10 percent against the dollar after President Trump's announcement on tariffs.

According to the Times, that move alone negated, at least temporarily, the impact of President Trump's latest

round of tariffs. The Chinese have done everything they can to gain advantage over us, to steal our jobs, steal our wealth. They have not played fairly, and now the President, with his tariffs, has them where we would want them.

They need to come to an agreement. But they are hanging tough, and the President's inclinations seem to be, from press reports, to back off so he can get any deal, so the stock market will go up temporarily. Make no mistake about it—in the long run, this will hurt America dramatically. The best paying jobs will be created in China, not here. The ability of the best American companies to compete worldwide will be dramatically curtailed.

It is abundantly clear that China is playing us. They want to give up as little as possible while getting out from under the sting of tariffs.

So I say to President Trump, whom I have praised on his China policies thus far—a lot tougher, a lot better than President Obama or President Bush. I say to President Trump: Do not get played. If you don't achieve what you set out to achieve, namely, the permanent reform of China's most abusive trade practices, then walk away, just as you walked away from North Korea when Chairman Kim would not make real commitments.

President Trump, you must walk away from China if President Xi refuses meaningful and enduring economic reforms. To do otherwise would be to squander maybe the last best chance of putting American workers and businesses on a level playing field with our No. 1 economic competitor.

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

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

SOCIALISM

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, in thinking about some of the debates swirling about here in Washington, DC, as to whether capitalism or socialism should be a preferred economic model, I recall a story that involves Boris Yeltsin, who went on to become the Russian President, who happened to be in Houston, TX, in 1989, visiting the Johnson Space Center—a very important part of NASA in Houston—when he decided to visit a grocery store in Clear Lake, TX. Though it sounds like it could be, this isn't the beginning of a Wes Anderson film.

It was nearly 20 years ago, in 1989, when the Soviet Union had not yet imploded and when the Berlin Wall was still standing. It would be 2 years before Yeltsin would be forced to take steps to begin to transform the Soviet

economy. As I said, he was in the Houston area, finishing a tour of the Johnson Space Center, when he made an unscheduled stop at a Randalls grocery store before he headed to Miami.

The Houston Chronicle reported at the time that Yeltsin gawked at the abundant produce, the selection of fresh fish, the checkout aisle, and especially the frozen pudding pops. He roamed the aisles, according to the story, stared at the frozen food section, and took advantage of the free samples of cheese. He actually talked to some of the customers there and asked questions about what they were buying and how much it cost them. He was stunned—absolutely stunned—as this was a far cry from the grocery stores in the Soviet Union. Yeltsin said: “Even the Politburo doesn’t have this kind of choice, not even Mr. Gorbachev.”

That day, Boris Yeltsin learned something that the overwhelming majority of people in our country already know—that socialism cannot provide the bounty, the prosperity, or the choices that capitalism can.

Leon Aron, who wrote Yeltsin’s biography, quoted one of his associates.

He said:

For a long time, on the plane to Miami, he sat motionless, his head in his hands. “What have they done to our poor people?” he said, after a long silence.

He told his fellow countrymen who were traveling with him that if their people were to see the conditions in American supermarkets, “there would be a revolution.”

Make no mistake about it. If the most radical Democrats in our country today get their way on the outlandish socialist policies they are pushing, the American people will be calling for a revolution.

The Green New Deal, Medicare for All, and economic security for those who are able-bodied yet who are unwilling to work are policies that are not going to raise up the most economically disadvantaged people in our country. They are going to pull everyone else down. Socialism promises not prosperity for all but what Winston Churchill called the equal sharing of miseries.

Though these self-proclaimed democratic socialists make big promises on how their policies will deliver fairness and equality for all Americans, that could not be further from the truth. The first thing these policies would do is to bankrupt our country. These unworkable economic policies will kill jobs and outlaw our most reliable, affordable energy sources. “Medicare for All” will turn into “Medicare for none” when the entire system crashes and when those who are unwilling to work will lose any incentive to even try. It would subsidize a nation of slackers.

This threat of the seductive embrace of socialism isn’t an exaggeration. Some of our friends across the aisle are actually critical of the equal opportunity, “pulling yourself up by your bootstraps,” hard-working economic

system that has made our country the envy of the world. They say: You didn’t create your success; the government did—what a bunch of hooley.

Over the weekend, one Democratic Member of the House who was speaking at South by Southwest in Austin, my hometown, referred to capitalism as “irredeemable” and tried to blame capitalism for every problem that exists in our society. I admit that we are not perfect, but capitalism isn’t the cause of every problem that exists in our society. Of all places to complain about the perils of capitalism, there is more than a little irony in her having chosen Texas—the most successful, free-enterprise economy in our Nation.

Instead of talking about this socialist, Big Government approach that we all know will fail, let’s look at how the Texas model has led my State to become an economic powerhouse and the envy of the Nation.

We keep taxes low, government spending restrained, and regulations at a rational minimum to give people and the small businesses that provide jobs the freedom to pursue their dreams and to prosper. I must say that it is obvious that it is working. The unemployment rate in Texas is 4 percent, which is among the lowest in the Nation. In Midland—in the Permian Basin, the heart of the energy boom in my State—unemployment is 2.1 percent. You are hard-pressed to find anybody to take the jobs that do exist because, essentially, everybody who is willing to work is fully employed. The biggest problem that job creators have is getting the workers they need. Yet there is a silver lining for the workers. This pushes wages higher as businesses compete for their labor.

Last week, the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis released international trade data that showed Texas, for the 17th year in a row, as the top State for exports. We make stuff, and we sell stuff. We grow things. We raise cattle and agricultural products, and we sell them. We are the top State for exports. In fact, our exports account for nearly 20 percent of the exports of the entire Nation. In 2018, that totaled more than \$315 billion of exports—more than double that of California’s, which is the second highest exporter. These earnings not only fuel the economy of our State, but they boost the entire Nation.

Our export dominance is only part of the reason Texas is thriving. Together, with lower taxes and less burdensome regulation, businesses and dream seekers are drawn to our State, which creates opportunities for everyone who is willing to work. Instead of growing government and increasing the tax burden, we allow businesses—small, medium, and large—to invest in their workforces, in our communities, and in our way of life.

In Texas, we believe that less government is more. We don’t try to centralize power in the statehouse. We give businesses, entrepreneurs, and

hard-working Texans of all backgrounds, ethnicities, and races the freedom by which they can create their own opportunities. We know that the more you tax, the more there are government controls and that the more you regulate, the greater the burden is on new ideas, investment, and opportunity.

The socialist policies being espoused by some members of the Democratic Party are not going to make our businesses and our economy stronger or more competitive. Indeed, history has shown that these are failed policies that will stifle innovation, discourage hard work, and make us look more like that 1980s Soviet grocery store.

Instead of our grocery stores being filled with a selection of beautiful produce, fresh meat, your favorite snack foods, they will be stocked with whatever the government says it wants you to have. Instead of making an appointment with your doctor when you are sick, you will wait for Lord knows how long to get an appointment with a government-run clinic and have few, if any, options. Instead of forcing ourselves out of bed in the morning to go to work, people who are able but who don’t want to work will stay in bed, knowing they can receive food and medical care that will be subsidized by your labor and your hard-earned tax dollars.

That is what these old—but now, somehow, dressed up as something new—failed ideas that have been proposed by our Democratic colleagues would do. Forget government “of the people, by the people, and for the people.” They want a country by the government, for the government—the people be damned.

In his autobiography, Yeltsin wrote: “When I saw those shelves crammed with hundreds, thousands of cans, cartons and goods of every possible sort, for the first time I felt quite frankly sick with despair for the Soviet people . . . that such a potentially super-rich country as ours has been brought to a state of such poverty.”

I pray that our country never sees that day when it is brought to ruin because of these 21st century socialists.

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

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

S. 659

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss Senate bill, S. 659, the Biologic Patent Transparency Act. This bill would help encourage competition in the prescription drug marketplace and begin to put an end to the harmful patent strategies that block new drugs from coming to market. I am pleased to be sponsoring this legislation with my friend and colleague

from Virginia, Senator TIM KAINE, as well as with Senators PORTMAN, SHAHEEN, BRAUN, and STABENOW, all of whom have joined us as original co-sponsors.

Prescription drugs are vital to the health and well-being of Americans, especially our Nation's seniors, 90 percent of whom take at least one prescription drug in any given month. Developing these medicines is a lengthy, expensive, and uncertain process. It often takes more than a decade and can cost billions of dollars to bring a new drug from the laboratory to the patient. Most drugs fail during the clinical trials. If we want new medicines to reach consumers who need them, the companies that invest in this research and development and take the risks necessary must see a fair return on their investment.

To encourage such investments, Congress grants inventors limited periods of patent protection during which their products are legally shielded from competition. Rewarding these investments has proven to be beneficial to many Americans. The past century could be termed the "Age of Miracle Drugs," with discoveries such as insulin and penicillin, and treatments for cancer, heart disease, HIV, and other serious medical conditions. Today, however, we might well define a "miracle drug" as one that has not doubled in price since the last refill.

Although our country leads the world in prescription drug innovation, we also lead the world in drug spending. According to one estimate, U.S. spending on prescription drugs will reach between \$580 billion and \$610 billion by the year 2021. In 2017, Americans spent more than \$330 billion on retail prescription drugs, and nearly one-quarter of individuals surveyed reported difficulties paying for the cost of their prescription medications.

How well I remember standing in the pharmacy line several months ago behind a couple who were informed by the pharmacist that their copay would be \$111. The husband turned to his wife and said: "Honey, we just can't afford that." They then turned around, left their prescription on the counter, and left the pharmacy. I asked the pharmacist how often that happens, and he told me, "Every day." That is the kind of onerous burden too many Americans are facing, and it's causing them to forgo fulfilling a prescription, to stretch out doses, or simply to choose to buy the medicine and short themselves on food or be late in paying their rent or mortgage.

Among the most expensive drugs on the market today are biologics. These are incredibly promising drugs for the health and well-being of many Americans. They have revolutionized treatment for many serious and life-threatening conditions, from diabetes and rheumatoid arthritis to cancer and multiple sclerosis.

Today, fewer than 2 percent of Americans use biologics, yet biologics ac-

count for nearly 40 percent of total spending on prescription drugs. Last year, the Senate Aging Committee, which I chair and which the Presiding Officer is a member of, held a hearing to examine the price increases for one of these groundbreaking treatments. HUMIRA, the world's best-selling prescription drug, is a biologic that was first approved for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis by the Food and Drug Administration, the FDA, in 2002. In 2017, U.S. sales of this product generated an astonishing \$12.3 billion in revenue for the drug's manufacturer.

Now, HUMIRA is truly a miracle drug for many patients. It is used to treat a variety of conditions, ranging from rheumatoid arthritis to Crohn's disease to ulcerative colitis and plaque psoriasis. So a wide range of diseases and conditions are responsive to HUMIRA. According to various reports, more than 200 patent applications have been filed for HUMIRA, with nearly 90 percent of those filed after HUMIRA was first approved by the FDA in 2002.

According to the manufacturer's CEO, more than 130 patents are included in HUMIRA's patent portfolio today. Protections provided by these patents can block competition and extend the drug's market monopoly until the year 2034. Keep in mind that this is for a drug that was first approved in 2002. We're talking about extending the patents until 2034.

HUMIRA has increased in price yet again this year, and although biosimilars have been approved by the FDA, patent litigation is blamed for keeping these lower cost alternatives from reaching the market. And HUMIRA is not the only biologic to be protected by such an extensive portfolio of patents—what we call a "patent thicket."

Enabling the creation, approval, and marketing of competitive biological products must be among our top priorities when we consider ways to reduce the healthcare costs of Americans.

The Biologic Patent Transparency Act is an important step Congress can take to shine light on the patent thickets that protect these biologics and to stop some of the gaming that has prevented consumers from accessing lower cost, FDA-approved products.

So what will our bill do? It has three major components. First, our bill would require manufacturers to disclose to the FDA the web of patents that protect their approved biologics from competition by biosimilar manufacturers—a process that we already know works. It has worked remarkably well for the small molecule drugs that are governed by the Hatch-Waxman Act of 1984. Although generics accounted for only 13 percent of U.S. prescriptions immediately before the Hatch-Waxman Act was passed, today they make up 90 percent. These generics often cost 70 to 90 percent less than the branded product. They have significantly reduced costs and expanded access to necessary treatments

for Americans. According to one estimate, generics have saved consumers more than \$1.6 trillion in drug costs over the last decade.

Second, our bill would tackle the patent strategies that are intentionally designed to block competition by limiting the enforceability of late-filed patents against biosimilar manufacturers that have already filed applications with the FDA.

According to one estimate, over 70 of the patents covering HUMIRA were applied for and granted within three years prior to the expiration of the initial patents.

So here's what is happening. A manufacturer of a wildly successful drug sees that its patents are about to expire and that a competitor—a biosimilar manufacturer—is on the way to getting approval by the FDA for its product. So what that original brand manufacturer does is make small alterations, frequently, in the product. It doesn't change the product in a dramatic way. It doesn't come up with a brand new medicine, but it changes it ever so slightly or decides to patent an aspect of it that was not previously patented. The whole purpose is to prevent that biosimilar manufacturer from bringing to market a more affordable product that consumers could access. That is just wrong. That is not what patents are intended for. And as I made clear earlier in my statement, I support a limited period of exclusivity for the innovator manufacturer. I think we should reward that investment in research and development and clinical trials, which is often very expensive. But it is not right for the patent system to be gamed this way, for it to be exploited and for last-minute patents to be filed for the sole purpose of precluding a competitor from coming to market with a less expensive, equivalent drug.

Restricting the enforcement of these late-filed patents that are filed after the application by the biosimilar manufacturer has been filed with the FDA will still protect the important investments made by the manufacturers, while encouraging the biosimilar manufacturers to bring important innovations to consumers sooner and at a lower cost.

Finally, the third part of our bill would require the FDA to regularly publish specific information related to approved biologic products, making it easier for prospective competitors to evaluate and plan for the development and introduction of biosimilars.

In addition to the name and patent information for all approved biological products, our bill would require the FDA to publish information including the drug's marketing status, applicable reference products, periods of exclusivity, biosimilar or interchangeable products, and approved indications for usage. The FDA will be required to regularly update this information as well, so that it is readily available and up-to-date. So what this will do is allow

the biosimilar manufacturer to go to what is known as the "Purple Book" at the FDA, take a look at the drug it wishes to compete with, and learn what existing patents are there, how long they are going to be in effect, and plan accordingly.

America's system of protecting innovation has provided our citizens with tremendous benefits, especially in the area of pharmaceuticals. Of that there can be no doubt. We must provide pharmaceutical manufacturers with the ability to recoup their investments, but at the same time, we cannot be blind to the costs of these drugs, nor to cases where patent laws are manipulated to preserve monopolies and prevent lower cost, equivalent drugs from coming to market. Passing the Biologic Patent Transparency Act is a major step we can take to put a stop to the patent-gaming that blocks consumers from accessing lower cost drugs. I encourage my colleagues to support this crucial legislation.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

Seeing no one seeking recognition, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOZMAN). The clerk will call the roll. The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Paul B. Matey, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, David Perdue, Roy Blunt, John Cornyn, Joni Ernst, Lindsey Graham, John Boozman, Mike Rounds, Thom Tillis, Steve Daines, James E. Risch, John Hoeven, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, John Thune, Pat Roberts, Jerry Moran.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Paul B. Matey, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 41 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—44

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

NOT VOTING—6

Graham	Murkowski	Perdue
Manchin	Murray	Sanders

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 44.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Georgia is recognized.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO DICK WILLIAMS

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I will be very brief for the Senator from Delaware so I am not taking up too much time.

I am here to do something very special. One of the great things we get to do is to pay tribute to people who do great things in our State. We don't brag about journalists as much as we should. They think we are saying bad things about them, but they are great. They make the country better. The fact that we have an accountable media makes us all great. There are superstars within the media who deserve acknowledgment, particularly when they retire from the job. In Georgia, that has been the case.

Dick Williams, in Atlanta, GA, announced on Sunday that after 53 years

in print, television, and radio journalism, he is going to retire. Dick has covered me over many years. He has been known as a conservative columnist, but he has gone after me as many times as he has been for me. He plays it straight down the middle unless it has to do with basketball—and he loves basketball. He has been chosen to referee in the conference championship for the State's high schools and has been a great sportsman for Georgetown University, for which he recruits athletes. He himself went to Georgetown.

Rebecca, his wife, was in the Georgia House as a reporter when I was in the Georgia House years ago. She is a talented house person who went on to ABC. She and Dick got married, and they have two children. They live in Brookhaven, GA, which is a new city that was created by the Georgia Legislature to allow independence for a lot of our cities that had been trapped inside the metro area.

His wife has been a reporter of journalism, and Dick has been a reporter of journalism. Then Dick bought the Dunwoody Crier. The Dunwoody Crier is one of those weekly publications—neighborhood newspapers—that everybody loves because it has their kids' pictures in it, because you can get a story about your wedding in there, and because Dick also writes in there some poignant columns that one would never read anywhere else.

When he wrote for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, he wrote for a newspaper that was owned by Eugene Patterson, by Ralph McGill, and by many talented writers. He was in the same category of spokesman and writer as those two gentlemen, who were giants, with McGill's having won a Pulitzer Prize.

Dick is one of the most favorite people I have ever known who reported on politics because he was always doing it for the right reasons. There are projects that have happened in our State today because Dick Williams took the power of the press not to trash something but to build up the facts that allowed it to pass. A lot of times, that doesn't happen, but when Dick saw a good deal, he would go for it, and when he saw a bad deal, he would go for it. Either way, you could take his word for it all the time because he was what is known in the profession as a straight shooter.

Dick Williams is a very special individual to me and my family. He did 1,700 shows called "The Georgia Gang." Every Sunday, at 8:30 in the morning, for 30 minutes, every politician in Georgia watches channel 5 in Atlanta because that is "The Georgia Gang." If you make it by that, your week is going to be pretty good because they haven't skewered you for something stupid that you did, but if you don't make it by that, you are going to have a tough week.

Dick Williams is the kind of journalist all of us love—accurate, articulate, smart, and caring about what he

does and the effect it may have. It is a real pleasure for me to stand on the floor of the U.S. Senate and say, Dick, thank you for the 1,700 great 30-minute shows you have done in your past. Thank you for all of the straight calls you made on the basketball court. Thank you for marrying Rebecca, who is a wonderful woman. Thank you for welcoming Lori Geary as your replacement every Sunday morning at 8:30. I now know, when I get up on Sundays, I will be going to church not with Dick Williams but with Lori Geary.

God bless you, Dick. Thanks for your contribution to Georgia.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

NOMINATION OF PAUL B. MATEY

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise today having just voted no on the motion invoking cloture on Paul Matey's nomination to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Now, I know speeches on procedure rarely make headlines, but I cannot be silent as the majority shreds long-held norms for political gain. Once again, the Republican majority has ignored the blue-slip process that allows Senators to either green light or prevent hearings on judicial nominees from their home States.

Some Americans may wonder, why does this matter? Well, the blue-slip process gives the people a voice through their elected representatives on who ultimately renders justice in their State. Neither Senator BOOKER nor I have returned blue slips for Mr. Matey. In fact, Mr. Matey's confirmation hearing took place before Senator BOOKER—our State's voice on the Judiciary Committee—was even extended the common courtesy of meeting with Mr. Matey. It wasn't for lack of trying. Senator BOOKER requested time with Mr. Matey, but when he didn't receive it, the Judiciary Committee proceeded anyway.

To add insult to injury, committee Republicans falsely claimed the White House had meaningfully consulted with myself and Senator BOOKER, the home State Senators, and that is simply not the case. There never was meaningful consultation between the White House and Senator BOOKER or me to identify a highly qualified consensus nominee—rather, we were informed about the decision to nominate Mr. Matey—nor did I receive any offer to meet with Mr. Matey, not before his nomination, not after his nomination, not even to date as we are voting on the Senate floor.

Look, I have come to expect this behavior from the Trump White House, but in the Senate, Democrats always—always—respected the blue-slip process during our time in the majority. That is undeniable.

Before President Trump took office, only five judges in the past century were confirmed with only one blue slip, much less no blue slips. Never has a Democratic-led Senate ever held a hearing or confirmed a judicial nomi-

nee without a blue slip from a Republican Senator. It is shameful.

As long as the President keeps packing our courts with corporate-friendly Federalist Society judges, the Republican majority is willing to destroy a process that Senator Orrin Hatch—former chairman of the Judiciary Committee—once called “the last remaining check on the President's judicial appointment power.”

President Trump's nominees are now being confirmed at record speed, despite objections from home State Senators.

My Republican friends claim to be the party of conservatism. Yet there is nothing conservative about sweeping aside century-old norms for political gain. They have put their party before country and show no fidelity to the institutions that have made this country great.

Aside from the degradation of Senate norms surrounding Mr. Matey's nomination, I have real concerns with his record. The people of New Jersey have no appetite for a judge who served in Gov. Chris Christie's administration and was once even called a protege of our esteemed former Governor.

As deputy chief counsel for Governor Christie, Mr. Matey said he tried to ensure that that administration followed “the highest standards of propriety, ethics, and legality.”

Somehow I question that. Consider what the people of New Jersey had to go through during Governor Christie's tenure: the Bridgegate scandal, the defunding of a Rutgers institute that was run by a Federal nominee, the spiteful removal of a security detail from former Governor Codey, and the rampant mismanagement of Superstorm Sandy relief contracts, which forced too many families to live in trailers for years on end. That is quite a list—quite a list.

I struggle to believe that Mr. Matey, the second most senior attorney in the Christie administration, had no knowledge of this behavior.

During his confirmation hearing, Mr. Matey could not detail any of the steps he took to ensure ethics rules were followed and declined to offer any description of his supposed “rigorous system” of monitoring and oversight at his confirmation hearing.

Apparently, Mr. Matey's system wasn't so rigorous, considering that Bridgegate—for those of my colleagues who may not know, although I think everybody knows, is when the operatives of the Christie administration closed access to the George Washington Bridge from the New Jersey side, which caused massive—massive—tieups on the New Jersey side, all to politically punish the mayor of the community where the George Washington Bridge leads from on the New Jersey side.

Bridgegate amounted to one of the most egregious abuses of political power against everyday New Jersey families in our history. He was sup-

posedly the guy who was making sure there was a rigorous system of monitoring and oversight. Well, I don't know how that happened.

I also have concerns about Mr. Matey's career after working for Governor Christie.

During his time as the senior vice president of University Hospital in Newark, a nationwide investigation gave the hospital an F—F, failure—for patient safety standards. Mr. Matey has acknowledged that while these issues were medical in nature, he did have some personal responsibility to mitigate risks to patients.

Likewise, some of Mr. Matey's writings suggest a hostility toward plaintiff attorneys who help everyday Americans take on powerful corporate interests in class action lawsuits.

In 2005, he authored an article with now-Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch that lamented how the Supreme Court's ruling in *Dura Pharmaceuticals* was a missed opportunity to “curb frivolous fraud claims” and dismissed plaintiff attorneys as seeking “free rides to fast riches.” In other words, Paul Matey saw a very narrow question in the *Dura Pharmaceuticals* case as an opening for the Court to make a sweeping ruling on all securities class actions. Now, that is what you call an activist judge.

Matey then goes on to decry the “enormous toll on the economy” securities fraud litigation takes on corporations but with little concern for the actual victims of security fraud.

Most troubling to me is how Mr. Matey has done zero—I repeat, zero—pro bono work throughout his legal career. His Senate Judiciary questionnaire lacks any record of pro bono representation. When he was asked about it, Mr. Matey claimed his work on behalf of the State of New Jersey satisfied the requirement. I couldn't disagree more. That is not pro bono work. You were paid for it.

Canon 2 of the American Bar Association's Code of Professional Responsibility explicitly emphasizes the importance of pro bono work. For many corporate lawyers, representing the underserved is the only way to witness firsthand how the scales of justice in this country are too often tipped in favor of the wealthy and well connected. Pro bono work helps lawyers cultivate sound judgment and is especially important to those seeking to become Federal judges.

Mr. Matey has done nothing to serve the disadvantaged, and that does not bode well for the fair administration of justice, nor does the Republican majority's disregard for procedures like blue slips bode well for the Senate's constitutional role to provide advice and consent or our responsibility to help build a judiciary that is responsive to the needs of the American people in the courtroom.

For all of these reasons, I urge my colleagues to oppose confirmation of Paul Matey to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. We are better than this.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Delaware.

CENTRAL AMERICA

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, last month, just hours after Congress passed bipartisan legislation to fully fund our Federal Government, I was privileged to join with Senator JEFF MERKLEY of Oregon and four Members of the House of Representatives, including our at-large Congresswoman from Delaware, LISA BLUNT ROCH-ESTER, to lead a congressional delegation to Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador—three countries that are oftentimes collectively referred to as the Northern Triangle.

Our delegation was on a factfinding mission. We wanted to drill down on the root causes of illegal immigration from Central America and assess the effectiveness of a new approach in recent years to help improve conditions on the ground in those three countries.

On our flight to Guatemala, several of us watched as President Trump—in order to build his long-promised wall—declared a national emergency, even though while illegal immigration spiked in the last couple of months across our southern border, if you go back to 2001 through the end of 2018, it has actually dropped by, believe it or not, 80 percent.

As former chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I understand the need for secure borders, and I have supported efforts to enhance border security over the last two decades that I have served in this body.

I have been down to Central America any number of times with people like Gen. John Kelly, when he was the SOUTHCOM commander, with Jeh Johnson, with RON JOHNSON, both of whom served as chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, and John McCain. We went into that part of the world and along our border with Mexico to better understand what our needs are for border security.

Since 2003, the United States has spent, believe it or not, \$263 billion—that is almost one-quarter of a trillion dollars—on border security.

We have doubled the number of border agents. We have deployed hundreds of miles of barriers and roads in places where they are most effective. We have funded highly sophisticated surveillance aircraft, equipment on drones and airplanes, helicopters, mile-high dirigibles, along with motion detectors, high-speed boats, tunnel detectors, and a lot more.

The approach on border security at our border with Mexico needs to be multilayered, and it is. There are some places barriers do make sense—a lot of places, in fact. There are some places that actually walls—the kind President Trump has envisioned, think San Diego and maybe Juarez—make sense, but there are a lot of other places where different kinds of barriers make sense.

In some places, roads alongside of barriers make sense.

We have deployed aircraft. We have deployed fixed-wing aircraft. We have deployed helicopters. We have deployed drones. If you just put them out there by themselves, they are not going to do much good, but if you put highly sophisticated equipment on each of those platforms, they give us the ability to see from our border into Mexico as far as 20, 25 miles in all kinds of weather—people as small as children who are approaching our border—and then we know where to deploy our Border Patrol to meet them and intercept them.

We can put the same kind of sophisticated surveillance equipment on dirigibles that go up 5,000 feet, 10,000 feet into the air. We can put them on towers that are mobile, towers that are stationary along the border as well.

We can put people on horseback. We can put, believe it or not, some of our Border Patrol officers on horseback. The reason we do that is, in areas with high vegetation, the Border Patrol officer on a horse—a big horse—can see over the vegetation and pick up people trying to come across the border illegally.

In some places, boats make sense, high-speed boats. In other places, boat ramps make sense. If you don't have boat ramps, you can't put the boat in, and you don't have much mobility.

Those are some of the things we have done in terms of providing better border security.

The encouraging news is, a lot of it has worked. A lot of it has worked, but we could build a wall from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Ocean, and if that is all we do, people are still going to come to this country—not so much from Mexico. People used to come in huge numbers from Mexico.

If you look back in the history of the last especially 15 years, most of the folks who were coming here illegally were coming from Mexico across our borders. Today, it is quite different. There are more Mexicans going back into Mexico than there are Mexicans coming into the United States. Most of the illegal immigration is not coming from Mexico. It is coming from Guatemala. It is coming from Honduras. It is coming from El Salvador.

The trek from the Northern Triangle—these countries right here—up through Mexico to our border is over 1,000 miles, probably closer to 1,500 miles, depending on how you want to get there.

The spike in immigration we have seen in the last several months is mostly from Guatemala's mountainous highlands. They have a lot of indigenous people, and they don't have a very good lifestyle. They have a lot of malnourishment, a lot of stunted growth, and not a lot in terms of encouragement and economic opportunity. Let me tell you a quick story of the reason why these people are trying to get out of there.

In the southern part of our State, Sussex County is our biggest county.

We raise enormous numbers of chickens there. For every person that live in Delaware, there are 300 chickens. I know the Presiding Officer has a lot of chickens in his State, too. We have a lot of folks who come up, including from Guatemala, and work in poultry processing plants. They are good workers. They work hard.

We have a nonprofit in southern Delaware, in Georgetown, DE, called La Esperanza, which means "hope." They work with indigenous populations, illegal and legal migrants, who have come to southern Delaware. A couple years ago, I was visiting La Esperanza, and they told me the story about a young boy and his younger sister who fled Guatemala. They came to the United States and, ultimately, to Delaware.

This is why they came. The 15-year-old boy in Guatemala was approached by gangs in his community. They said: We want you to join our gang.

He said: Let me talk to my parents first before I do that.

He knew his parents wouldn't be too excited with that. He talked to his parents, who said: You are not going to join a gang. We don't want you to do that. Just tell them no.

He avoided the gang members for a while, but they finally caught him and said: Are you going to join our gang?

He said: I talked to my parents, and they don't want me to do that, so not now. I am not going to do it now.

They said: We have a message for you and your parents. If you don't join our gang, somebody in your family is going to die.

He went home and told his parents, and their message to him was: Join the gang. Just don't do anything stupid.

So he joined the gang. They have to go through an initiation ritual, and as part of that ritual, he was called on to rape his 13-year-old sister. He reported what was expected of him to his parents, and within a week he and his sister were on their way out of that country.

The gangs in these countries, especially in Guatemala, are entrepreneurial. They may be involved in trafficking people. They may be involved in trafficking drugs. They are really good at extortion—extorting money from small businesses and going to a business and saying: I want you to pay me protection money. If you provide protection money, I will see that you are not harmed.

The merchant says: Who are you protecting me from?

You are actually being protected from the guy who is trying to extort money from you, and if you don't pay the money, they will kill you. It is just like that. As for the rate of extortion in these three countries from gangs who do multiple kinds of crimes, that is one of their favorites.

The reason why people live lives of misery has a lot to do with us—because we are addicted to drugs. The drugs are trafficked through these three countries, and we are complicit in their misery.

A Catholic priest testified before the Homeland Security Committee a couple of years ago. He described a situation where our drug addiction makes life miserable in these three countries. Then, when they try to get out, we make it difficult to impossible to get into our country.

The priest who was our witness that day said: It is a little bit like the fire department visiting a house down here. The fire department goes into the house. There is no fire. The fire department goes into the house, and they start a fire. When the people try to run out of the house, the fire department leaves the house, locks the door, and drives away.

That is really a pretty good example of what we have done in Central America. We have lit the fire. We have left the family in the house. We have locked the door and driven away. I think that is morally wrong, and we can do better than that.

As it turns out, aside from spending \$263 billion along the border for security in the last 18 years or so, someone has come up with a better idea. It is not a new idea. It is an idea based on something called Plan Colombia. Plan Colombia was developed 20 years ago, when in Bogota, the capital of Colombia, you had the FARC, the leftist guerrillas trying to take down the government, and drug lords and drug gangs trying to take down the government of Colombia. One day, a bunch of gunmen rounded up the supreme court justices of Colombia, took them into a room, and shot them to death.

Colombia was teetering, and there were questions: Are they going to be able to make it? Some very brave Colombian leaders stood up and said: We are not going to let this happen. We are not going to let these guys take down our country. Our President then, Bill Clinton, and a fellow who was chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Joe Biden, found common cause with the leaders of Colombia. Basically, the Colombians developed a plan that would help to stabilize their government and enable them to restore order, rule of law, and economic prosperity, and we helped them. I will give one example of what we did.

The Presiding Officer spent a lot of time in the military. One of the things we did is that we provided helicopters so that the military of Colombia and the police of Colombia had mobility. They could go over the mountainous rivers and country and track down the bad guys. That is what they did with our help.

We helped them to figure out how to collect revenues. They didn't collect many revenues, and the wealthy people of that country didn't pay much taxes at all. We taught them how to do a better job in revenues and to use that to help to develop their government institutions. The people in Colombia did the heavy lifting. We helped. It is like they say in Home Depot: You can do it; we can help.

The Presiding Officer has heard me say many times in the Environment and Public Works Committee: Find out what works, and do more of that.

Plan Colombia worked. It took a long time. I am an old Navy guy. It reminds me of trying to change the course of an aircraft carrier. You stick with it, and you can make sure to change the course of an aircraft carrier. It doesn't happen fast. Plan Colombia has taken years to work, but it has worked.

About 3 or 4 years ago, when we were starting to see a real surge—again, not from Mexican immigration illegally into our country but from these three countries—President Obama called on Joe Biden to take off-the-shelf Plan Colombia, and see if it might be possible to develop a Central American version of Plan Colombia. The idea would be to focus on three or four areas. We would provide some of the money, but these countries would provide a lot more because it is their country. It is not our country, but we are complicit in their misery. So we have an obligation to help them—a moral obligation.

These are the three areas of focus of the Alliance for Prosperity—the modern-day, Central American version of Plan Colombia. One is economic hope and economic opportunity. That is one. That is one of the major drivers of people getting out of there—lack of economic opportunity. Two is violence and the lack of rule of law. Three is just corruption. Corruption is endemic in their Federal government—the national government—in State and local governments, and in business. It is just endemic. Those are the three buckets that the Alliance for Prosperity was designed to address. We put up some of the money. The other countries put up a good deal more.

One example is El Salvador. For every dollar we put up, they put up \$7. We used that money in El Salvador to, among other things, target the cities with the most crime. We used some of our resources but a lot more of their resources. The crime in those 50 cities is down dramatically in the last couple of years.

In Honduras the murder rate is down by about 35 percent. These three countries vie for murder capital of the world and have for some time. The murder rate in Honduras is down by 35 percent or 40 percent. The murder rates in Guatemala and El Salvador over the last 3 years are down by half. Would we still feel comfortable in those neighborhoods? Probably not, but it is better than what it was.

In Honduras, one of the things they did is basically that they fired one-third of their police officers and replaced them with vetted units. With that in mind, they did a much better job on extortion. They did a much better job on kidnapping and actually bringing to trial and sentencing the folks who are committing the crimes.

USAID is working down there in San Salvador, the capital of El Salvador,

and in the capital of Guatemala, creating almost like tech centers where young entrepreneurs can start their own businesses. They get some help from us and some coaching from us, and they are starting to lead an economic recovery.

These are beautiful countries—lush and with beautiful beaches in some places. So they are attractive for tourism. They have, for the most part, very fertile soil, and with the right kind of help, coaching, and mentoring, they can do a much better job feeding themselves and exporting a lot of what they raise.

Things are starting to happen. Again, it is like that aircraft carrier I talked about. It is slow at first and, then, more perceptible as time goes by.

In San Salvador, the capital of El Salvador, we used Federal—American—money in order to leverage the Howard G. Buffett Foundation to go—literally, in the middle of the city—into 17 acres of what used to be a beautiful park and was later riddled with crime, and to clean it up and make it beautiful again for the people of that city.

One multinational company has come down into one of these countries and put millions of dollars into creating a DNA facility to help in solving crimes.

Little by little, things are getting better. There are still problems in Guatemala and among the highlands indigenous people who are still trying to get out of there. Ninety percent of the immigration right now is out of that part of Guatemala.

The last thing I will say is this. They just had an election in El Salvador 4 weeks ago. The current President is a 75-year-old guerilla leader who was a close friend of Venezuela's leader and was at Maduro's inauguration a month or so ago. He is friendly with the Chinese and friendly with the Cubans. He is leaving. He is stepping down as the President of that country in a couple of months.

Who is going to succeed him? It is the 38-year-old mayor of San Salvador, who gets economic development. He is free of corruption. He is someone who has a good relationship with our embassy there, and he is highly regarded by our folks. He is an honest guy, full of energy. In his campaign, he was the first candidate for President in the history of the country who has gotten over 50 percent. It didn't have to go to a runoff. It is an amazing development. He harnessed social media to get elected.

Meanwhile, there is going to be a Presidential election in Guatemala in June. Jimmy Morales is the President there. He is somebody whom Vice President Biden and I tried to mentor. Initially, it started out very promising. Then, more recently, there are real concerns about corruption involving his family. His time as President will expire about the middle of this year, but in Guatemala the three frontrunners to run for president are

all women. The person who is believed to be the frontrunner of them all is a woman named Thelma Aldana, who is the immediate past Attorney General. She is tough on crime and tough on corruption. She has been in this country some this month and had the opportunity to talk with Vice President Biden to get some encouragement from him.

Joe Biden is beloved in Delaware and in some other places around the country, but they really love him there because he has been interested in root causes—not just in treating the symptoms of the problems and challenges on the border but actually helping to address the root causes.

The fellow who has just been elected President of El Salvador is a 38-year-old millennial. His social media people have now started to help the former Attorney General who is running for President of Guatemala.

As the Presiding Officer and my colleagues know, the most important ingredient in the success of any organization I have ever seen is leadership. It is leadership.

We are seeing a changing of the guard not only in terms of age but also in terms of just where they come from, on a scale of 1 to 100.

The last thing I want to mention—if I could find my spot here in my notes—is that none of this is easy, but it basically says that we have a moral obligation to the folks down here. We make their lives miserable because of our drug addiction, and we ought to help them. They have to do most of the work, but we have to help them. We can't just help them for a couple of weeks or a couple of months or a couple of years, as we found out in Colombia; we have to stick with this a good deal longer to help change the culture of these countries.

I am encouraged to say that change is happening, and we should keep it going. There is a sense of optimism that is beginning to emerge in these countries. I think there are some reasons to be encouraged that a plan modeled after Plan Colombia and tailored especially for this part of the world can actually succeed. If we don't give up and especially if they don't give up, it very well will.

P.S. The cost of actually capturing somebody on our border who is starting to come in illegally, detaining them, putting them in a holding camp or a detention center, feeding them, providing healthcare, and eventually deporting them and sending them back down to wherever they came from, I am told is \$27,000 a person—\$27,000 a person.

These people love their countries, and given a chance, they would much rather stay down there. They would much rather stay down there. They might like to come up to visit and maybe do some work sometime and go back home. But they want to have a decent life. Frankly, if we will help them realize that, they will stay down

there. They may come up as tourists, and maybe we can go down there as tourists. We heard that over and over.

The last thing we heard down there is that they love America. They love America. They are mindful of what we are trying to do to help them. They are grateful for the help we are providing. I know a bunch of them. I met a lot of them down there. Some of them live in my State. For the most part, they are good and decent people. They deserve our help. I am proud of the support this Congress has provided for the last 4 years for their lives and prosperity. My hope is that we will continue to do that and continue to use that money to leverage a lot of good work not only for those countries but for nonprofits, NGOs, foundations, and private companies, and that together we will get the job done. I am encouraged.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I really want to say to my friend, Senator JEFF MERKLEY, who went down to this part of the world any number of times as a young man and went back again last month still as a young man, that he has provided a lot of great insight. It has been a joy going with him and now working with him on this as we go forward.

I yield the floor.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). The Senator from Arkansas.

THE AMERICAN LEGION'S CENTENNIAL

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, the American Legion, the Nation's largest wartime veterans service organization, is celebrating its centennial this year. I rise today to recognize this milestone.

For the past 100 years, the American Legion has been a leading advocate for veterans and their families. The Legion has played a role in crafting legislation, shaping policies, expanding services, and creating generations of civic-minded Americans.

Founded in Paris following World War I, the American Legion was officially chartered by Congress on September 16, 1919. Since its founding, Legionnaires have proudly worked to strengthen our country and our communities, while upholding the promise our country made to those who have worn our Nation's uniform.

The list of achievements that the Legion has helped fight for is long and includes the creation of the U.S. Veterans' Bureau in 1924, the forerunner of the Veterans' Administration. Decades later, the Legion was active in elevating to Cabinet-level status the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Following the American Legion's lead, Congress adopted a flag code to formally lay out the protocol for carrying and displaying our Nation's banner. The Legion continues to actively support the constitutional amendment to protect the American flag from desecration.

During World War II, the American Legion drafted legislation that would become the GI bill. Legionnaires were

instrumental in securing passage of this landmark legislation that helped returning troops further their education, buy houses, and start businesses. It also established hiring privileges for veterans.

The Legion continues its strong advocacy for improving these and other benefits. Its efforts were vital in the passage of the Post-9/11 GI bill and the enhancement measure passed in 2017, which bears the name of a former American Legion commander, the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act.

After a century of service, Legionnaires remain just as committed to advocating on behalf of our veterans today.

Last month, I met with members of the American Legion Department of Arkansas who were visiting the Nation's Capital to voice their support for the organization's 2019 priorities. This includes supporting the VA's efforts to reduce veteran suicides, improving healthcare for women veterans, fighting veteran homelessness, ensuring GI bill benefits, and ensuring benefits to veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange. I am optimistic about the progress we will make on these important issues because of the excellent and active work of the American Legion Department of Arkansas, which has more than 10,000 members in nearly 150 posts throughout the State.

The Arkansas Department of the American Legion was incorporated on May 12, 1919. National headquarters records show it was the first incorporation of the organization in the United States. There is a proud history of involvement in all corners of the State, ranging from the annual fallen heroes ceremony to the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year program.

I have had the privilege of participating in Legion events around the State, including honoring the Arkansans who paid the ultimate sacrifice, celebrating the milestones of the posts, and recognizing young Arkansans who have been distinguished by Legionnaires. The Legion rightfully prides itself as being actively involved in the community and teaching Arkansas youth how to be good citizens. Through a variety of programs and activities—Boys and Girls State Programs, support of the Boy Scouts of America, and the American Legion Baseball Program, to name a few—it encourages fostering a dedication to civic responsibility, promoting American values, and serving others.

For 100 years, the American Legion has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of veterans and their families. In honor of their centennial, Congress approved minting a coin to recognize its milestone. I was a proud cosponsor of the bill and support its passage to commemorate the legacy of the American Legion and the thousands of men and women who have supported its mission and upheld the four pillars of its founding: veterans affairs and rehabilitation,

national security, Americanism, and children and youth.

As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I have seen up close Legionnaires' and the American Legion Auxiliary's dedication and the results their efforts have produced in Arkansas and across our entire country. I am proud to recognize the American Legion on its 100 years of advocacy and celebrate this century of service with the 2 million members who are making a difference each day as Legionnaires.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all postcloture time on the Matey nomination expire at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12; further, that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, on International Women's Day, we reflect on the enormous contributions women make worldwide to their communities and their countries across every aspect of society including justice, politics, culture, peacebuilding, the economy, and national security. On this day, we also recognize and recommit to fighting on behalf of the many women whose voices governments seek to silence. Around the world, women take enormous risks to advance the rights of their fellow citizens and to promote the principles of freedom of expression, religion, and assembly. They fight for rights to access education and healthcare, and they fight discrimination, corruption, and violence. For their words and for their actions, all too often, governments turn these women into political prisoners.

Today, I want to highlight just a tiny fraction of the countless number of women and girls held behind bars unjustly. Similarly, unfortunately, the repressive governments detaining these women are just a small fraction of the governments around the world that lock up women for exercising their fundamental freedoms.

Just last week, the government of Saudi Arabia announced that it would

put on trial its country's leading women's rights activists who have been in prison without charges since May 2018. The crackdown on these activists began just weeks ahead of the much-anticipated lifting of the ban on women driving, one of the very causes for which many of the detained activists had campaigned. While some were quickly released, others remain imprisoned. They include Loujain al-Hathloul, Aziza al-Yousef, Eman al-Nafjan, Nouf Abdelaziz, Mayaa al-Zahrani, Samar Badawi, Nassima al-Saada, Hatoun al-Fassi, Shadan al-Onezi, and Amal al-Harbi. Credible reports indicate that Saudi interrogators tortured at least four of the women, including with electric shocks and whippings and sexual harassment and assault.

In the Philippines, Senator Leila de Lima, a brave champion of human rights, launched an investigation into extrajudicial executions that began shortly after President Duterte took office in 2016. As one of the only leaders bold enough to oppose President Duterte's "war on drugs," she has faced prolonged arbitrary detention, according to Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International. President Duterte has sought to silence her courageous voice as she spoke out against widespread human rights violations, including thousands of extrajudicial executions of mostly poor and marginalized people.

In Egypt, Hanan Badr el-Din, a human rights defender and cofounder of the Families of the Forcibly Disappeared Association, was detained on May 6, 2017, at Qanatar prison while visiting an individual who had been forcibly disappeared. She started her activism following the forced disappearance of her husband in 2013. She suffers from a serious genetic disorder, and her health is rapidly deteriorating.

China is responsible for some of the most grave human rights abuses, including of women. China has imprisoned hundreds of thousands of Uighur women in detention camps across its northwest region. These women are forced to renounce their Muslim religion and Uighur language and memorize Chinese propaganda. Forced labor, torture, and death are common. Thousands of children have been separated from their mothers and fathers and placed in a separate network of orphanages. One husband of a Uighur woman told Human Rights Watch: "My wife was about to go back overseas but they took her passport. And when she went to ask to get her passport back, they told her she needs to be subjected to political education for 10 days, and then they would let her go. That was on July 20, 2017. Since then, she's been in a political education camp." The family of Guligeina Tashimaimaiti, a Uighur PhD student who was last seen in December 2017 when she returned from studying in Malaysia, for example, fears she is in detention and at risk of torture and other ill treatment.

China has also targeted Tibetan Buddhist nuns. The government expelled hundreds of nuns in 2017 from Larung Gar in Sichuan, the world's largest Tibetan Buddhist center. Their homes were demolished; they were barred from entering other monasteries, and faced detention, harassment, and abuse.

In Eritrea, Aster Fissehatsion has been held incommunicado without charge or trial since September 2001. Her whereabouts, 17 years later, are still not known. Aster Fissehatsion was arrested together with 10 other members of a group of political dissidents known as the Group of 15, or G-15, including her former husband, former Vice President and foreign minister of Eritrea, Mahmoud Ahmed Sheriffo.

Perhaps, most tragically, this is just a snapshot of some of the brave women who dare to speak up for fundamental rights and values.

So on this International Women's Day, as we reflect on the achievements of women and reflect on the work that remains to be done, I call on all of us to redouble our efforts to free women political prisoners. Governments have the responsibility to promote the safety, well-being, and fundamental rights of their citizens. I call on governments who are unjustly detaining, harassing, and torturing women for exercising their fundamental rights to immediately release these politically motivated detentions. As they continue to struggle, let us all take up the mantle of their cause.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING MIAMI TOUR COMPANY

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, as chairman of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize a small business that exemplifies the unique American entrepreneurial spirit. Today, it is my distinct pleasure to name Miami Tour Company as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Founded in 2002, Miami Tour Company has quickly become a premier provider of tours and activities in south Florida. Husband and wife, Gus and Michelle Moore, founded the company based on the principle of providing the best customer experience possible. Gus and Michelle met while working at a restaurant and bonded over a shared passion for making sure that visitors to their home State have a great experience. After serving thousands of hungry patrons and learning how to make visitors to Miami as happy as possible, Gus and Michelle decided to start a business. With their combined knowledge of the area and a knack for anticipating their customer's needs, a tour company was the perfect fit. With their savings from working at the restaurant, the couple

bought a tour bus, and the Miami Tour Company was born.

Seventeen years later, Miami Tour Company has grown to transport 35,000 passengers annually and have served more than 600,000 clientele. Their fleet now includes motorcoaches, minibuses, vans, SUVs, shuttle buses, and boat tours. The company's local guides run day tours through Key West, Orlando, the Everglades, and Miami Beach. They have also instituted a GPS-guided system in their tour buses that triggers high-quality digital voice recordings at locations of interest, making them the only tour company in Florida to offer this technology. To expand their customer base, the company has begun offering the recordings in Spanish, Portuguese, Mandarin, French, Italian, German, and Russian, allowing visitors from around the world to enjoy the attractions that Florida has to offer.

On top of providing enjoyable and informative tours, Miami Tour Company gives back to their community. They guide local elementary students on free historical bus tours throughout Miami and offer students free eco-tourism trips to the Everglades. They also give back to their community by providing complimentary travel charters for activities for the children and families of Sophia's Hope. In addition, they donate portions of their proceeds to the Miami Beach Holocaust Memorial and the Miami Beach Botanical Gardens. Miami Tour Company has been a true small business success story. Their dedication to hospitality has been recognized with an A-plus rating from the Better Business Bureau and a Certificate of Excellence from online reviewers.

Gus and Michelle's commitment to an exceptional customer experience represents the standard of hospitality with which Florida small businesses are known for. Companies like Miami Tour Company are one of the many reasons that visitors enjoy south Florida and keep coming back. I would like to congratulate Gus, Michelle, and all of the employees at Miami Tour Company for being named the Senate Small Business of the Week. I wish them good luck and look forward to watching their continued growth and success.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, 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.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

BUDGET OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020—PM 5

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986; to the Committees on the Budget; and Appropriations:

To the Congress of the United States:

In just over 2 years, together with the American people, we have launched an unprecedented economic boom. Since I was elected, we have created more than 5 million new jobs, including half a million manufacturing jobs. Nearly 5 million Americans have been lifted off food stamps. Unemployment is the lowest in nearly half a century. African American unemployment, Hispanic American unemployment, and Asian American unemployment rates have all reached historic lows. Our Nation is experiencing an economic miracle—and it is improving the lives of all our citizens.

We have achieved these extraordinary gains thanks to historic tax cuts and an unprecedented regulatory reduction campaign, through unleashing American energy production, systematically fixing bad trade deals, and remaining absolutely committed to putting the needs of the American worker first.

My Administration worked with the Congress to pass unprecedented legislation to confront the opioid crisis, a sweeping new farm bill, groundbreaking criminal justice reform, major investments to rebuild the military, and historic Department of Veterans Affairs reforms to ensure that our great veterans have access to high quality healthcare.

We are also making our communities safer. To target violent crime, my Administration has increased support for Federal, State, and local law enforcement. We have added nearly 200 new violent crime prosecutors across the United States. And last year, the Department of Justice prosecuted more violent crimes than ever before. As a result, violent crime is falling.

My Administration is confronting the national security and humanitarian crisis on our southern border, and we are accepting the moral duty to create an immigration system that protects the lives and jobs of our citizens. This includes our obligation to the millions of immigrants living in the United States today who followed the rules and respected our laws.

In the 20th century, America saved freedom, transformed science, and defined the middle class standard of living. Now we must write the next chapter of the great American adventure, turbo-charging the industries of the fu-

ture and establishing a new standard of living for the 21st century. An amazing quality of life for all of our citizens is within reach. We can make our communities safer, our families stronger, our culture richer, our faith deeper, and our middle class bigger and more prosperous than ever before.

We are now addressing our challenges from a position of strength. My 2020 Budget builds on the tremendous progress we have made and provides a clear roadmap for the Congress to bring Federal spending and debt under control. We must protect future generations from Washington's habitual deficit spending.

This year, I asked most executive departments and agencies to cut their budgets by at least 5 percent. In addition to reflecting those reductions, my Budget invests in the following priorities:

Securing our Borders and Protecting our Sovereignty. As President, my highest duty is the defense of our Nation—which is why finishing the border wall is an urgent national priority. All who are privileged to hold elected office must work together to create an immigration system that promotes wage growth and economic opportunity, while preventing drugs, terrorism, and crime from entering the United States. Immigration policy, like all policy, must serve the interests of Americans living here today—including the millions of new Americans who came here legally to join our national family. The American people are entitled to a strong border that stops illegal immigration, and a responsible visa policy that protects our security and our workforce. My Budget continues to reflect these priorities, and I look forward to working with the Congress to finish the border wall and build a safe, just, and lawful immigration system that will benefit generations of Americans to come.

Preserving Peace through Strength. A strong military, fully integrated with our allies and all our instruments of power, enables our Nation to deter war, preserve peace, and, if necessary, defeat aggression against United States interests. To that end, my Budget requests \$750 billion for national defense, an increase of \$34 billion, or 5 percent, from the 2019 enacted level. The Budget funds the National Security Strategy and National Defense Strategy, building on the major gains we have already made throughout the world.

Protecting our Veterans. Our Nation's brave warriors and defenders deserve the best care America has to offer—both during and after their active service. Last year, I signed into law the historic VA MISSION Act of 2018 to reform and transform the Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare system into an integrated system for the 21st century. My Budget fully funds all requirements for veterans' healthcare services and provides additional funding to implement the VA MISSION Act of 2018.

Investing in America's Students and Workers. To help protect taxpayer dollars, my Budget continues my request to create an educational finance system that requires postsecondary institutions that accept taxpayer funds to have skin in the game through a student loan risk-sharing program. My Administration will also continue to seek expanded Pell Grant eligibility for high-quality, short-term programs in high-demand fields, so that students and workers can quickly gain valuable skills at a more affordable cost and obtain family-sustaining jobs. We must create and invest in better opportunities for our Nation's students and job seekers, while ensuring that we do so in a more efficient and effective manner.

Research for Childhood Cancers. Many childhood cancers have not seen new therapies in decades. My Budget initiates a new effort that invests \$500 million over the next 10 years to support this critical life-saving research.

Defeating HIV/AIDS in America. The HIV epidemic still plagues our Nation, with more than 38,000 Americans infected every year. In response, my Budget provides \$291 million to the Department of Health and Human Services to defeat the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The goal is to eliminate most new infections within 5 years (75 percent) and nearly all within 10 years (90 percent). This initiative will focus efforts on diagnosis, prevention, and treatment efforts in the locations where intense transmissions of the virus are driving the epidemic.

Confronting the Opioid Epidemic. My Budget continues historic levels of funding for our law enforcement, prevention, and treatment efforts to combat the opioid and drug addiction epidemic.

Supporting Working Families. America must also lead in supporting the families of our workforce so that they can balance the competing demands of work and family. My Budget includes a one-time, mandatory investment of \$1 billion for a competitive fund aimed at supporting under-served populations and stimulating employer investments in child care for working families. My Administration has also pledged to provide paid parental leave to help working parents, and we are committed to partnering with the Congress to enact this important policy.

We must always strive to uphold our oaths to promote and protect the personal and economic freedoms the Constitution guarantees to us all.

We must work together to renew the bonds of love and loyalty that link us to one another—as friends, as citizens, as neighbors, as patriots, and as Americans.

My Budget reflects my Administration's commitment to these worthy goals as it seeks to make the United States of America wealthier, stronger, safer, and greater for every American family and neighborhood.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 11, 2019.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 3:02 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 bill:

S. 49. An act to designate the outstation of the Department of Veterans Affairs in North Ogden, Utah, as the Major Brent Taylor Vet Center Outstation.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 729. A bill to prohibit the use of funds to Federal agencies to establish a panel, task force, advisory committee, or other effort to challenge the scientific consensus on climate change, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, March 11, 2019, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 49. An act to designate the outstation of the Department of Veterans Affairs in North Ogden, Utah, as the Major Brent Taylor Vet Center Outstation.

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-530. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Methoxyfenozide; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9985-06-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-531. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "S-Metolachlor; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9983-79-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-532. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice of additional time required to complete a report on the development of an Integrated Lodging Pilot Program (ILPP); to the Committees on Armed Services; Appropriations; and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-533. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Availability of DoD Directives, DoD Instructions, DoD Publications, and Changes" (RIN0790-AK48) received in the

Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-534. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan (RSFPP)" (RIN0790-AK31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-535. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the continuation of the national emergency originally declared in Executive Order 13660 on March 6, 2014, with respect to Ukraine; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-536. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the continuation of the national emergency originally declared in executive order 13288 on March 6, 2003, with respect to the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Zimbabwe and other persons to undermine Zimbabwe's democratic processes or institutions; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-537. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Michigan; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2012 PM2.5 NAAQS; Multistate Transport" (FRL No. 9990-41-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-538. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Michigan; Revisions to Part 1 General Provisions Rules" (FRL No. 9990-42-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-539. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; South Carolina; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference" (FRL No. 9990-38-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-540. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Arizona; Nonattainment Plan for the Miami SO2 Nonattainment Area" (FRL No. 9990-40-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-541. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Kansas; Sewage Sludge Incineration Units" (FRL No. 9989-73-Region 7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-542. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; National Priorities List: Partial Deletion of the Robintech, Inc./National Pipe Co. Superfund Site" (FRL No. 9990-15-Region 2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-543. A communication from the Director of the Regulations and Disclosure Law Division, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of Import Restrictions on Archaeological and Ecclesiastical Ethnological Materials from Honduras" (RIN1515-AB45) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-544. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services, to Japan, to support the manufacture, integration, assembly, operation, training, testing, and maintenance of AN/ARC-164 (RT-1145 and RT-1504) UHF Receiver/Transmitters and related radio equipment (Transmittal No. DDTC 18-094); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-545. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) and (d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the manufacture of significant military equipment and the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services, abroad to Turkey to support the manufacture, sales, and maintenance training of all variants of Armored Combat Vehicle (ACV) Family of Vehicles, Sharpshooter and 40/50 Turrets, the remotely fired .50 caliber Cupola, and modernization kits and materials in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 17-141); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-546. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms abroad controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions Lists of Colt M16A4 5.56mm fully-automatic rifles to Oman in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 18-006); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-547. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services, to Norway to support the manufacture, development, integration, and support for Air-to-Air Pylons for the F-35 Lightning II Aircraft for end-use by the United States in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 18-088); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-548. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a petition to add workers who were employed at the Y-12 Plant in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, to the Special Exposure Cohort; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-549. A communication from the Acting Deputy Solicitor, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of General Counsel, Federal Labor Relations

Authority, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-550. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to accomplishments made under the Airport Improvement Program for fiscal year 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-551. A communication from the Deputy Chief, Mobility Division, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "In the Matter of Service Rules for the 698-746, 747-762, and 777-792 Bands" ((WT Docket No. 06-150) (DA 19-77)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 6, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON for the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

*Ronald D. Vitiello, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.

*Joseph V. Cuffari, of Arizona, to be Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

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

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 733. A bill to protect the investment choices of investors in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 734. A bill to leverage Federal Government procurement power to encourage increased cybersecurity for Internet of Things devices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. UDALL, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. KING, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 735. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that return information from tax-exempt organizations be made available in a searchable format and to provide the disclosure of the identity of contributors to certain tax-exempt organizations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 736. A bill proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to clarify the authority of Congress and the States to regulate corporations, limited liability companies, and other corporate entities established by the laws of any State, the United States, or any foreign state; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 737. A bill to direct the National Science Foundation to support STEM education research focused on early childhood; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. Res. 102. A resolution designating April 2019 as "Second Chance Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. Res. 103. A resolution designating March 27, 2019, as "National Assistive Technology Awareness Day"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 25

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 25, a bill to reserve any amounts forfeited to the United States Government as a result of the criminal prosecution of Joaquin Archivaldo Guzman Loera (commonly known as "El Chapo"), or of other felony convictions involving the transportation of controlled substances into the United States, for security measures along the Southern border, including the completion of a border wall.

S. 91

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 91, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize per diem payments under comprehensive service programs for homeless veterans to furnish care to dependents of homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 92

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 92, a bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law.

S. 94

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 94, a bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to facilitate the establishment of additional or expanded public target ranges in certain States.

S. 114

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Alabama

(Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 114, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide that activities relating to the training and readiness of the reserve components of the Armed Forces during a lapse in appropriations shall constitute voluntary services that may be accepted by the United States.

S. 211

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 211, a bill to amend the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 to secure urgent resources vital to Indian victims of crime, and for other purposes.

S. 237

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 237, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit nurse practitioners and physician assistants to satisfy the documentation requirement under the Medicare program for coverage of certain shoes for individuals with diabetes.

S. 272

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 272, a bill to establish the policy of the United States regarding the no-first-use of nuclear weapons.

S. 296

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 296, a bill to amend XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 317

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 317, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option of providing coordinated care for children with complex medical conditions through a health home.

S. 506

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 506, a bill to support State, Tribal, and local efforts to remove access to firearms from individuals who are a danger to themselves or others pursuant to court orders for this purpose.

S. 518

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 518, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of certain lymphedema compression treatment items as items of durable medical equipment.

S. 546

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Oregon

(Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 546, a bill to extend authorization for the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 through fiscal year 2090, and for other purposes.

S. 554

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 554, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take actions necessary to ensure that certain individuals may update the burn pit registry with the cause of death of a registered individual, and for other purposes.

S. 559

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 559, a bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to provide leave because of the death of a son or daughter.

S. 580

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 580, a bill to amend the Act of August 25, 1958, commonly known as the "Former Presidents Act of 1958", with respect to the monetary allowance payable to a former President, and for other purposes.

S. 590

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 590, a bill to award Congressional Gold Medals to Katherine Johnson and Dr. Christine Darden, to posthumously award Congressional Gold Medals to Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson, and to award a Congressional Gold Medal to honor all of the women who contributed to the success of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration during the Space Race.

S. 634

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 634, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish tax credits to encourage individual and corporate taxpayers to contribute to scholarships for students through eligible scholarship-granting organizations and eligible workforce training organizations, and for other purposes.

S. 642

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 642, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Master Sergeant Rodrick "Roddie" Edmonds in recognition of his heroic actions during World War II.

S. 661

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 661, a bill to provide for enhanced protections for vulnerable alien children, and for other purposes.

S. 662

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 662, a bill to provide access to counsel for unaccompanied alien children.

S. 663

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 663, a bill to clarify the status and enhance the effectiveness of immigration courts, and for other purposes.

S. 665

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 665, a bill to reduce the number of preventable deaths and injuries caused by underride crashes, to improve motor carrier and passenger motor vehicle safety, and for other purposes.

S. 690

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 690, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make the child tax credit fully refundable, establish an increased child tax credit for young children, and for other purposes.

S. 692

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 692, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices.

S. 706

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 706, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education to disclose hazing incidents, and for other purposes.

S. 717

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 717, a bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to prohibit the manufacture, processing, and distribution in commerce of asbestos and asbestos-containing mixtures and articles, and for other purposes.

S. 720

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 720, a bill to require the student loan ombudsman of the Department of Education to provide student loan data to the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes.

S. 726

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 726, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to ensure the safety of cosmetics.

S. 728

At the request of Ms. HARRIS, the name of the Senator from Michigan

(Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 728, a bill to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to obtain a statue of Shirley Chisholm for placement in the United States Capitol.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 102—DESIGNATING APRIL 2019 AS “SECOND CHANCE MONTH”

Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 102

Whereas every individual is endowed with human dignity and value;

Whereas redemption and second chances are values of the United States;

Whereas millions of individuals in the United States have a criminal record;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of individuals return to their communities from Federal and State prisons every year;

Whereas neighbors returning to their communities have paid their debt to society after committing a crime but still face significant legal and societal barriers (referred to in this preamble as “collateral consequences”);

Whereas returning individuals face collateral consequences automatically, regardless of—

(1) a nexus between the legal or societal barrier and public safety;

(2) the seriousness of the offense committed;

(3) the time passed since the offense; or

(4) the efforts of the individual to make amends or earn back the trust of the public;

Whereas gaining meaningful employment is one of the most significant predictors of successful reentry into society and reducing future criminal activity;

Whereas many individuals who have previously been incarcerated struggle to find employment because of collateral consequences, which are often not directly related to the offense committed or any proven public safety benefit;

Whereas many States have laws that prohibit an individual with a criminal record from working in certain industries or obtaining professional licenses;

Whereas education has also been shown to be a significant predictor of successful reentry into society;

Whereas an individual with a criminal record often has a lower level of educational attainment than the general population and has significant difficulty acquiring admission to and funding for educational programs;

Whereas an individual convicted of certain crimes is often barred from receiving the financial aid necessary to acquire additional skills and knowledge;

Whereas an individual with a criminal record also often faces collateral consequences in securing a place to live;

Whereas an individual with a criminal record is often barred from seeking access to public housing;

Whereas an individual with a criminal record also often faces other collateral consequences, such as an inability to regain voting rights, volunteer in the community, and secure identification documentation;

Whereas an individual who has been convicted and incarcerated may incur significant debt as a result of the conviction and incarceration;

Whereas collateral consequences prevent millions of individuals in the United States from contributing fully to their families and communities;

Whereas collateral consequences can contribute to recidivism, which increases crime and victimization and decreases public safety;

Whereas the inability to find gainful employment and other collateral consequences of conviction inhibit the economic mobility of an individual with a criminal record, which can negatively impact the well-being of the children and the families of the individual for generations;

Whereas the bipartisan First Step Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-391) was signed into law on December 21, 2018, to increase opportunities for individuals incarcerated in Federal prison to participate in meaningful recidivism reduction programs and prepare for a second chance;

Whereas the Second Chance Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-199; 122 Stat. 657), which has resulted in the provision of reentry services to more than 164,000 individuals in 49 States and the District of Columbia since its enactment, was reauthorized through the First Step Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-391);

Whereas April 21 marks the anniversary of the death of Charles Colson, who used his second chance following his incarceration for a Watergate-related crime to found Prison Fellowship, the largest outreach program to prisoners, former prisoners, and their families in the United States; and

Whereas the designation of April as “Second Chance Month” can contribute to increased public awareness about the impact of collateral consequences, the need for closure for those who have paid their debt to society, and opportunities for individuals, employers, congregations, and communities to extend second chances; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2019 as “Second Chance Month”;

(2) honors the work of communities, governmental institutions, nonprofit organizations, congregations, employers, and individuals to remove unnecessary legal and societal barriers that prevent an individual with a criminal record from becoming a productive member of society; and

(3) calls upon the people of the United States to observe Second Chance Month through actions and programs that promote awareness of those unnecessary legal and social barriers and provide closure for individuals with a criminal record who have paid their debt to society.

SENATE RESOLUTION 103—DESIGNATING MARCH 27, 2019, AS “NATIONAL ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS DAY”

Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. CRAMER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 103

Whereas assistive technology is any item, piece of equipment, or product system that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of people with disabilities and older adults;

Whereas the term “assistive technology service” means any service that directly assists a person with a disability or an older adult in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device;

Whereas, in 2018, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that 1 in 4 people in the United States, or almost 61,000,000 individuals, has a disability;

Whereas, in 2017, the Department of Education reported that there were more than 6,700,000 children with disabilities;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that, among adults 65 years of age and older, 2 in 5 have a disability;

Whereas assistive technology allows people with disabilities and older adults to be included in their communities and in inclusive classrooms and workplaces;

Whereas assistive technology devices and services are not luxury items but necessities for millions of people with disabilities and older adults, without which they would be unable to live in their communities, access education, and obtain, retain, and advance gainful, competitive integrated employment;

Whereas the availability of assistive technology in the workplace promotes economic self-sufficiency, enhances work participation, and is critical to the employment of people with disabilities and older adults; and

Whereas State assistive technology programs support a continuum of services that include—

(1) the exchange, repair, recycling, and other reutilization of assistive technology devices;

(2) device loan programs that provide short term loans of assistive technology devices to individuals, employers, public agencies, and others;

(3) the demonstration of devices to inform decision making; and

(4) providing State financing activities to help individuals purchase or obtain assistive technology through a variety of initiatives, such as financial loan programs, leasing programs, and other financing alternatives, that give individuals affordable, flexible options to purchase or obtain assistive technology; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 27, 2019, as “National Assistive Technology Awareness Day”; and

(2) commends—

(A) assistive technology specialists and program coordinators for their hard work and dedication to serving people with disabilities who are in need of finding the proper assistive technology to meet their individual needs; and

(B) professional organizations and researchers who are dedicated to facilitating the access and acquisition of assistive technology for people with disabilities and older adults in need of assistive technology devices.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I have a request for one 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 HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, March 11, 2019, at 5:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing on the nomination of Ronald D. Vitiello, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary, and Joseph V. Cuffari, of Arizona, to be Inspector General, both of the Department of Homeland Security.

NATIONAL ASSISTIVE
TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS DAY

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 103, submitted earlier today.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 103) designating March 27, 2019, as "National Assistive Technology Awareness Day."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 103) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

MEASURE PLACED ON THE
CALENDAR—S. 729

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 729) to prohibit the use of funds to Federal agencies to establish a panel, task force, advisory committee, or other effort to challenge the scientific consensus on climate change, and for other purposes.

Mr. BOOZMAN. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 12,
2019

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 12; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Matey nomination under the previous order; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BOOZMAN. 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, following the remarks of our Democratic colleagues.

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

The Senator from Oregon.

CENTRAL AMERICA

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, it was a powerful opportunity to join my colleague from Delaware, Senator CARPER, in traveling to the Northern Triangle of Central America—Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador—to try to understand more about the dynamics in that region, which are driving so many families to come north, to take the difficult journey through Central America, through Mexico, to come to our border and to ask for asylum.

This has been a significant flow, which has expanded greatly. We have seen in the past that most of those arriving on our border were men from Mexico who were seeking work but not so much now. Now we have this flow of families from Central America. These families are traveling to find something better for their lives and for their children's lives. It is not an easy journey, and it is a journey that has created quite a conversation here in the United States of America.

The conversation coming from our President has been this: How do we stop them from asserting asylum at the border?

President Trump has a number of strategies to deter families from coming. His strategy was to separate children from their parents, treat those fleeing as criminals, create great trauma for the children, and use this as a strategy of deterrence. This was first laid out very clearly by John Kelly just months into the administration. In March of 2017, he said: Yes, this is exactly what we are considering.

The administration then proceeded to implement it first as a pilot project and later as an all-out strategy to treat those migrating as criminals, lock up the parents, separate the children, inflict trauma, and deter people from coming. I can state that any strategy that involves mistreating children as a political tactic—a political message of deterrence—is simply evil. It comes from a very, very dark place in the heart of this administration to deliberately injure children in this fashion.

Why doesn't the President look to Central America and ask: What is motivating these families to come? How can we change that motivation? What are the forces at work in that region?

Those were the questions that Senator CARPER and I were undertaking to

answer on our recent trip, and I appreciate so much that he went through the great work of organizing it.

We went first to Guatemala, then to Honduras, then to El Salvador. We met with the President. We met with the incoming President of El Salvador. We met with the civil society organizations—those who understand the roots of what is going on within the society—and here is what we learned. We learned there were three powerful forces driving families to leave those countries: security, economics, and corruption.

Let's talk a little bit about those three things.

Security. I had the chance to meet a woman and her daughter, Gabriella and her baby Andrea. Gabriella told me about her journey. She said that her family took a loan from a private bank, which probably meant a financial loan from the local drug cartel or financial group associated with a drug cartel. The family wasn't able to repay the loan. They were given a deadline. They were told: If you don't repay the loan, one of your family members dies, and that will be you, Gabriella.

Gabriella was pregnant. She figured that as long as she was pregnant, they would not kill her. So when she was 8 months pregnant—1 month ago—she fled the country to save herself and to save her baby.

I met her and her baby on the border. They had just crossed the bridge into the United States of America. I asked her: How did you get past the American border guards, who wouldn't allow anyone across the bridge if they didn't have a passport or visa? Her face lit up for a moment. She said: Well, I was rebuffed time and again at the center of the bridge, not allowed to come across and assert asylum, and I was desperate, blocked on the Mexican side.

Then I saw there was a pedestrian bridge and a car bridge, and on the car bridge were folks who were washing windows for tips. So I asked to use an extra squeegee from one of the window washers, who gave it to me, and I washed windows on the car bridge to get into the United States of America. And there she was at the foot of the bridge with her baby.

She told me that because she fled with her baby, those who were enforcing that private loan from that private bank killed her uncle. That is the security issue that comes with all of the various versions of that story.

I met another woman, Patricia. Patricia had a 14-year-old daughter. Patricia had to pay extortion money. The President of Guatemala told me that every business has to pay extortion money. In this case, though, Patricia had no money left to pay the extortion. So the drug gang—or the gang that controls the streets and runs the extortion—came to her house and assaulted her 14-year-old daughter. So she fled. She fled to protect her daughter from any other such horrific circumstances. She came to the United States.

That is a security issue. This is not a situation where if you don't pay the extortion money, they break your window. This is: If you don't pay the extortion money, we kill you; we rape your daughter; we kill your family—maybe we torture them. That is the security issue.

Then there is the economic issue. In Guatemala, the median age is 18. I believe they said it is the youngest median age on the planet. A huge number of young people are coming into working age, and while they are working to create jobs, they are not possibly creating enough jobs. So you have this huge number of people without jobs. What are they going to do?

I will state that one thing they do is go hungry. Malnutrition is a horrendous demon haunting the country of Guatemala. One individual showed us a picture of Guatemalan children against a wall and their average heights; they had lines across the wall for their heights. They had a similar picture of Guatemalan children being raised in the United States. It was to dramatize the fact that the children growing up in Guatemala at age 9 are 6 inches shorter than the Guatemalan children growing up in the United States at the same age. It is stunting—stunting from persistent malnutrition. So joblessness and malnutrition, an insufficient network of schools and trained schoolteachers—all of these things are economic challenges.

Let me tell you, it is not just the fact that you don't have a job. It is that in your small village across the country—across all three countries—you may see on a street, as was described to us, a shack, a second shack, a third shack, a fourth shack, and then a beautiful house. That beautiful house was there because somebody in that village made it to the United States of America, and they have been sending back money year after year in sufficient quantities that the family is now prosperous. They can build that beautiful house.

That beautiful house stands as a billboard. It is an advertisement for what might happen if you can make it to the United States and get a job. So on the one hand, there are no jobs, and on the other hand, this beacon of hope is saying to you: If you can make it across the border, you might be able to be prosperous yourself and, basically, enable your entire family to be prosperous.

Then we have corruption. This isn't garden variety corruption. For generations—for hundreds of years—there has been a class in these countries that is beyond the law. They call their efforts to change this a campaign against impunity. That is not a word we use a lot in America—"impunity"—but it means individuals who are never touched by the legal system. They can do whatever they want. They pay no fines. They never go to prison. They suck money out of the country. They suck money out of all of those layers of the economy below them. They have become

extraordinarily rich. They talk about the 8 families in Guatemala and the 14 families in El Salvador.

So that corruption we have been working to take on. We, the United States, in partnership with the governments there, have been working to take that on. So those three things—security, the economy, and corruption—are the factors driving people to flee north.

A few years ago, then-Vice President Biden went to Central America to understand those issues better. Out of that came the Alliance for Prosperity—the Alliance for Prosperity—a strategy based on Plan Colombia, as my colleague from Delaware laid out, that would strengthen the programs to take on the security issues, to take on the corruption issues, to take on the economic challenges that are draining those countries so that people didn't feel that to survive, they had to flee north.

We funded this at a modest level in fiscal year 2016. It was \$754 million. Think of that as it compares to money we have been spending on the border—billions and billions and billions of dollars for physical infrastructure, for border security, for high-tech sensors, for a system of courts to adjudicate asylum, all of that. We spent only about three-quarters of a billion dollars to strengthen those three countries.

Along comes the Trump administration, which says that it is concerned—very concerned—about this flow of people coming from Central America to our border, and they propose a 34-percent cut in this program. They propose cutting it from \$754 million to a proposal of \$460 million. Well, the Democrats and Republicans restored funding, put it back, not quite to the \$750 million number but to \$627 million.

The Trump budget came out the next year and cut it again; they proposed a 30-percent cut. Again, here in Congress, we worked to restore those programs, not where they were before but, basically, \$100 million more than the Trump administration asked for.

So to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle: Doesn't it make sense for us to support the Alliance for Prosperity? For each dollar we send, they provide between \$4 and \$7; that is \$4 to \$7 in very poor countries.

Doesn't it make sense to support the commissions against impunity, the commissions against corruption? In the last 2 years, the Trump administration has been undermining these commissions against corruption. Well, that is just wrong.

The result, as you saw in El Salvador, was the election of the mayor of San Salvador, Nayib Bukele, a very young fellow in his thirties. What did he run on? Taking on corruption, taking on impunity. Shouldn't we be a partner with them in this?

If we don't want families to flee north, then we shouldn't want the elite to operate with impunity and suck all

of the resources out of the country and leave people starving. Let's partner with the governments there to take on corruption, not undermine these commissions of support.

A trip to Central America will make you really appreciate our institutions, our economy, our education system, our healthcare system, our court system, our opportunities for our children. We can do far better, for sure, but every piece of what we have that works so much better than those parallel systems in Central America calls out to those there to come and participate in our society. If we want families to stay where they are, they are going to have to have an opportunity where they are, which means we have to take on the security issues, including the street-level extortion. We have to help them take those on. We have to help them improve their economy and their education system. We have to help them take on the systemic, high-level, massive corruption that drives resources into the hands of the very few at the expense of the very many.

That is the mission we should be talking about here on the floor—wrestling with here on the floor. Maybe we shouldn't return to the levels that Obama had that we had passed in a bipartisan way here. Maybe we should double what was done in 2016—or triple—if we really want to help anchor those societies' rudders that have people fleeing for their lives to come here.

THE EQUALITY ACT

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I speak now to a bill we will introduce this Wednesday, the Equality Act. The Equality Act will be introduced by a group of us in the Senate and by another group led by Congressman CICILLINE in the House.

It is an appropriate moment for us to ponder in this Chamber why this piece of legislation is part of our American journey toward the vision of opportunity for all and why we all should be supporting this beautiful legislative proposal.

My involvement in the Equality Act began in my home State of Oregon, when I was serving in the legislature there, and we had the question of how can we change the systematic discrimination against our LGBTQ brothers and sisters. How can we give them the same opportunity everyone else has?

So we came together and said we should do an Oregon Equality Act, an Oregon Equality Act that would create the same basic protections the Civil Rights Act has for race and gender and ethnicity.

We went about doing that. I was the speaker. I worked very hard to make that happen, and we succeeded. We ended discrimination in Oregon based on who you are or whom you love. Discrimination should be ended across the whole country.

I arrived here in January 2009, and I was assigned to the Health, Education,

Labor, and Pensions Committee—the Health Committee. I asked Senator Kennedy if I could possibly serve on this committee to help fight for health and education and labor, and he arranged that. I will never forget having his voicemail on my phone saying: Yes, you are a member of the committee.

A few months later came the real surprise. Senator Kennedy was struggling with the brain cancer that killed him later that year, and through his team, he asked me to take on one of his civil rights bills, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

That was to end discrimination for LGBTQ Americans in employment, give them a fair chance to get a job here. Well, this is something that had been part of our Equality Act in Oregon. We had gotten that done, and because I helped lead that fight, he asked me to take over and lead the fight to end employment nondiscrimination.

That was 2009. It took 4 years of work—work with the community and work with our legislators inside this building. Then, finally, in 2013, the time was ripe to put it on the floor and have this debate. This Chamber, with the supermajority, bipartisan vote, said, yes, let's end discrimination in employment, and we passed the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

Then I went over to the House, and it died without consideration. I got together with the advocates and asked, where do we go from here with the House not acting? Do we simply continue to reintroduce the Employment Non-Discrimination Act—which had been first introduced in 1996, first considered on this floor and almost passed just one vote short in 1998. Do we continue to do that?

Out of that conversation, we developed a different vision. Let's do a full Equality Act like Oregon has done, like a number of other States have done and end discrimination not just in one sector or another, not just in places of accommodation, not just in financial transactions, not just in serving on a jury, not just in terms of housing, not just in terms of employment, let's base the Equality Act on providing the full spectrum, the full measure of protection for opportunity.

I thought that was a pretty good idea. Later that year, I introduced the Equality Act in partnership with many others. We laid out that first Equality Act in the Johnson Room—the Johnson Room, which looks out at the Supreme Court and reminds us of 1964. In 1964, when the Civil Rights Act was passed, driven forward by President Johnson, who came from Texas, who came from the South, and said: It is time to end discrimination in the United States of America based on race and gender and ethnicity. He drove that legislation through, and it has been a foundation we haven't questioned since because we know it is right. We know it is part of

this journey of the United States of America going back to our Declaration of Independence, going back to our Constitution—a vision of opportunity for all and liberty for all.

We know it was imperfect, and we have worked now for almost two and a half centuries to perfect that vision of opportunity. Senator Ted Kennedy once said: “The promise of America will never be fulfilled as long as justice is denied to even one among us.” The promise of America—that promise of America that Thomas Jefferson so eloquently put, in 1776—is a vision where we are all created equal, with “unalienable Rights . . . Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

How can that vision be propelled, sustained, and promoted if, in fact, as you pursue your life, the door is slammed shut on you, saying, “No. There is opportunity for that individual but not you,” and the door is slammed shut—liberty for that person but not you, and the door is slammed shut.

We have come to understand that is just wrong. It is completely incompatible with the vision that was laid out, the vision of our Declaration and the vision of our Constitution.

In fact, in this Chamber, we start with a pledge, and we talk about one Nation under God with liberty and justice for all. Classrooms across the country start their day with a pledge of liberty and justice for all, but what is liberty if the door is slammed shut? That is the denial of liberty. That is the opposite of freedom. That is the crushing of opportunity.

So the story of America goes forward. The fight goes forward. We had the 1964 Civil Rights Act that was a culmination itself of decades of work. We had the voting rights struggle during the same time period, and the Voting Rights Act in 1965. We fought a number of battles—battles of discrimination against those with disabilities. We fought for workers' rights, but our LGBTQ brothers and sisters still face discrimination all across this country. We are still in a situation where so many doors are slammed shut.

We have had a lot of progress in the last 10 years. Ten years ago, we had the Defense of Marriage Act, and now we don't. We had don't ask, don't tell in the military, and now we don't. We had only three States that recognized same-sex marriage, and now it is the law of the land as the Supreme Court weighed in and said it is required by the vision of our Constitution.

Discrimination in all kinds of ways is still legal in 29 States—more than half the country. In more than half the country, you can be married in the morning, denied service at a restaurant for lunch, fired from your job in the afternoon, and kicked out of your apartment that night because discrimination is still legal against LGBTQ Americans in 29 States.

LBJ gave a definition of freedom. He said: “Freedom is the right to be treated in every part of our national life as a person equal in dignity and promise to all others.” Discrimination is the opposite of freedom.

Let freedom ring in this Chamber as we introduce the Equality Act later this week. Let freedom ring down the hall as the House of Representatives holds a debate in committee and on the floor in the months to come, and when that freedom bell rings so loudly that they pass that bill, the Equality Act in that Chamber, let them bring it down this hallway right into the Senate; that we might debate the same and put an end to the extraordinary, disgraceful discrimination that still marks the lives and slams the doors shut on millions and millions of Americans every single day.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:27 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, March 12, 2019, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

DAVID BERNHARDT, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, VICE RYAN ZINKE.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JOHN LINDER, OF GEORGIA, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY.

INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

JENNIFER D. NORDQUIST, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS, VICE MATTHEW T. MCGUIRE, TERM EXPIRED.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

JOHN MCLEOD BARGER, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2021, VICE LOUIS J. GIULIANO, TERM EXPIRED.

THE JUDICIARY

RAINEY R. BRANDT, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE JUDITH NAN MACALUSO, RETIRED.

SHANA FROST MATINI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE ZOE BUSH, RETIRED.

MICHAEL S. BOGREN, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN, VICE ROBERT HOLMES BELL, RETIRED.

JEFFREY VINCENT BROWN, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, VICE MELINDA HARMON, RETIRED.

STEPHANIE DAWKINS DAVIS, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN, VICE GERALD E. ROSEN, RETIRED.

BRANTLEY STARR, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, VICE SIDNEY A. FITZWATER, RETIRED.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO RABBI JOHN L.
ROSOVE

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2019

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rabbi John L. Rosove, a man of great integrity and an outstanding leader in the greater Jewish community, who is retiring from his duties as Senior Rabbi of Temple Israel of Hollywood, a position he has held since 1988.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Rabbi Rosove earned a Bachelor's in Art History from the University of California, Berkeley, a Master's in Hebrew letters from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles, Rabbinic Ordination from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, and a Doctor of Divinity from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles.

Rabbi Rosove has worked tirelessly and selflessly to build a robust Jewish community in the greater Hollywood area, and to bring Jewish people closer together, viewing social justice work and ethical principles as core Jewish religious values. He oversaw the founding of the Temple's Day School and helped spearhead Big Sunday Weekend of Service in 1998, which today is a year-round organization where 50,000 Good Samaritans in Los Angeles volunteer annually to help the community at over 2,000 events.

Rabbi Rosove has admirably served in numerous leadership positions, including as national chairperson of the Association of Reform Zionists of America, where he represented more than 1.5 million American Reform Jews. He also served in leadership roles at the Jewish Agency for Israel, the World Zionist Organization, and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, and from 2012 to 2016, he was a national co-chair of the Executive Rabbinic Cabinet of J Street.

For his work benefitting the Jewish Community, Rabbi Rosove has received the World Union for Progressive Judaism International Humanitarian Award and honored by J Street.

Rabbi Rosove and his wife Barbara, have two sons, Daniel and David.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring Rabbi John L. Rosove for his decades of outstanding service to the Jewish community and his unwavering commitment to peace and justice.

HONORING MS. JEANIE PARNELL

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2019

Mrs. ROBY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Jeanie Parnell, an exceptional Ala-

bamian who won the 2018 Southeastern Literary Tourism Initiative writing contest with her short story, "Tunnel Vision," that focuses on the American Civil Rights Movement in my hometown Montgomery, Alabama.

Born and raised in Montgomery, Jeanie received her undergraduate degree from Auburn University. Following her graduation from Auburn, Jeanie received post-graduate degrees in English and Teaching Writing from Auburn University Montgomery.

Jeanie is a stay-at-home mother of three currently living in Montgomery. She has written several successful novels, including "Fairhope," a second-prize winner of the 2013 Amazon Breakthrough Novel Award. Her most recent short story, "Tunnel Vision," captures the spirit of social change through the eyes of a 1954 Montgomery woman who is magically transported to modern-day Alabama.

Literature like Jeanie's story can encourage tourism and promote economic growth in communities throughout the United States. The Southeastern Literary Tourism Initiative challenges writers to create stories that attract visitors to areas like Alabama's Second District. Jeanie has truly captured the spirit of Montgomery, and I encourage others to visit our beautiful city so that they may see firsthand the rich history of our area.

Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to honor Ms. Parnell's literary success and to acknowledge her impact on the Montgomery community. I am proud to call her a lifelong friend and fellow Alabamian.

RECOGNIZING AAYUSH KARAN OF
MUSKEGO

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2019

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a young, bright, and talented student from Wisconsin's First Congressional District, Aayush Karan of Muskego. A student at the University School of Milwaukee, Aayush is in Washington this week as one of the top 40 finalists—and the only finalist from Wisconsin—in the nation for the most prestigious science competition for high school seniors, the Regeneration Science Talent Search.

His Regeneration Science Talent Search mathematics project untangled a mystery in knot theory. Knot theory has puzzled mathematicians for years and advancements in the theory could help our understanding of DNA. In addition to his studies, Aayush runs cross country and plays the piano.

On behalf of Wisconsin's First Congressional District, I congratulate Aayush for his incredible achievement and wish him all the best in the future.

RECOGNIZING ARMY NATIONAL
GUARD MASTER SGT. JOHN
PAUL KARPOVICH OF LUZERNE
COUNTY

HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2019

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise today to recognize the dedicated service of Army National Guard Master Sgt. John Paul Karpovich of Luzerne County. Master Sgt. Karpovich was recently presented with the Pennsylvania Veterans Service Medal and is the first recipient of this distinguished award.

The Pennsylvania Veterans Service Medal is reserved for those within our great Commonwealth who go above and beyond to support Pennsylvania's veterans. A member of the National Guard, Master Sgt. Karpovich has transcended his call to serve. He has become an instrumental member of the veterans community in Pennsylvania, giving selflessly to many men and women who served before him.

For nearly 20 years, Master Sgt. Karpovich has served on the Wyoming Valley Veterans Day Parade Committee, he is also a life member of AMVETS Post 59, a member of American Legion Post 395, serves on the board of directors for the Northeastern Pennsylvania Veterans Multi-care Alliance, and is a member of the Honorary First Defenders.

Nearly 800,000 veterans call Pennsylvania home. We are fortunate to have dedicated individuals like Master Sgt. Karpovich who work to support our heroes. Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Army National Guard Master Sgt. John Paul Karpovich on this well-deserved recognition and thanking him for the many contributions he has made and continues to make, to our veterans.

CONDEMNING ANTI-SEMITISM AND
ANTI-MUSLIM DISCRIMINATION

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Committees on Judiciary and Homeland Security, the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, the bipartisan Congressional International Religious Freedom Caucus, and the Helsinki Commission, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 183, a resolution that puts the House on record in its condemnation of anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, racism, and other forms of bigotry as hateful expressions of intolerance that are inimical to the values and aspirations that define the people of the United States.

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

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

I support the resolution also because it also forcefully expresses the condemnation by this House of anti-Muslim discrimination and bigotry against racial, ethnic, religious, and other marginalized communities.

Mr. Speaker, nearly thirty years ago, as a young mother, I first visited Israel and the Holy Land, and I have returned many times since then to the region that gave birth to three of the world's great religions, civilizations, and cultures.

I have been a passionate supporter of the Mickey Leland Kibbutzim Internship program, which for nearly thirty years has enabled inner-city high school students who live or study in the 18th Congressional District the opportunity to spend a summer in Israel.

As a member of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, better known as the U.S. Helsinki Commission, I have traveled abroad on numerous occasions to participate in parliamentary diplomacy in support of OSCE and other European efforts to combat anti-Semitism, including legislation calling for increased security for the Jewish community, funds for civil society coalitions to combat hate, and a U.S.-EU Joint Action Plan to combat prejudice and discrimination that would include a specific focus on anti-Semitism.

As a member of the Commission I supported the successful effort to include anti-Semitic incidents in the annual State Department International Religious Freedom Reports and Country Reports on Human Rights, and to create the position of the U.S. Special Envoy on Anti-Semitism within the State Department.

Mr. Speaker, nearly 74 years have passed since the end of World War II but for those who survived, and the descendants and relatives of those who perished, the Holocaust is not ancient history but a reminder of the evil that can be unleashed when humans give into their worst instincts and appetites.

The Holocaust is the worst example of man's inhumanity to man in human history and the magnitude of its destruction numbered more than 12 million deaths, including 6 million Jews and 1.5 million children.

A haunting quote in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum refers to the story of Cain and Abel: "The Lord said, 'What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground'" (Genesis 4:11).

The Holocaust is a testament to the fragility of democracy and it forces us to confront uncomfortable questions such as the responsibilities of citizenship and the consequences of indifference and inaction, and the importance of education and awareness.

That is why we, all of us, must reject and resist prejudice and intolerance in any form.

Mr. Speaker, anti-Semitism is the name for the bigotry and form of racism endured for centuries by Jewish people for no other reason that simply because they are Jews.

In 2017 the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported a 37 percent increase in hate crimes against Jews or Jewish institutions and found that attacks against Jews or Jewish institutions made up 58.1 percent of all religious-based hate crimes.

And it was just last year, on October 27, 2018, the perpetrator of the deadliest attack on Jewish people in the history of the United States killed 11 worshippers at the Tree of Life Synagogue building in Pittsburgh and reportedly stated that he "wanted all Jews to die."

There is an urgent need to ensure the safety and security of Jewish communities, including synagogues, schools, cemeteries, and other institutions.

Outside of the United States, Jews are the targets of anti-Semitic violence at even higher rates in many other countries.

Anti-Semitism includes scapegoating or blaming Jews as Jews when things go wrong; calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or extremist view of religion; or making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotyped allegations about Jews.

Another way that anti-Semitism manifests itself is when Jewish people are subject in the media and political campaigns to numerous other dangerous myths, including the canard that Jews control the United States Government or seek global, political, and financial domination, or that Jews are obsessed with money.

Mr. Speaker, we need to denounce and reject forcefully and continuously the scapegoating and targeting of Jews in the United States that has persisted for many years, including by the Ku Klux Klan, the America First Committee, and by modern neo-Nazis, whose membership decidedly is not comprised of "very fine people."

We also must have zero-tolerance for any suggestion or accusation that Jews are more loyal to Israel or to the Jewish community than to the United States.

Such accusations of dual allegiance constitutes anti-Semitism because they suggest that Jewish citizens cannot be patriotic Americans and trusted neighbors, when Jews have loyally served our Nation every day since its founding, whether in public or community life or military service.

Accusations of dual loyalty have an insidious and pernicious history and led, inter alia, to the discriminatory incarceration of Americans of Japanese descent during World War II on their basis of race and alleged dual loyalty; the Dreyfus affair, when Alfred Dreyfus, a Jewish French artillery captain, was falsely convicted of passing secrets to Germany based on his Jewish background; and the questioning of John F. Kennedy's fitness to serve as President of the United States because of his Catholic faith.

Following the terrorist attack of September 11, we saw a noticeable increase in suspicion of, and hostility to, Muslim-Americans in the United States, including Islamophobia, based on false accusations that they were supportive of, or associated with, terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, in 2017, mosques were bombed in Bloomington, Minnesota, and burned in Austin, Texas, Victoria, Texas, Bellevue, Washington, and Thonotosassa, Florida, and mass attacks on Muslim communities were planned against communities in Islamburg, New York, in 2019, Jacksonville, Florida, in 2017, and Garden City, Kansas, in 2016.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has reported that hate crimes against Muslims or Muslim institutions in the United States increased by over 99 percent between 2014 and 2016.

That is why I am so pleased that the resolution before us also strongly denounces anti-Muslim bigotry, which entails prejudicial atti-

tudes towards Muslims and people who are perceived to be Muslim, including the irrational belief that Muslims are inherently violent, disloyal, and foreign; or sympathize with individuals who engage in violence or terror or support the oppression of women, Jews, and other vulnerable communities.

It is very important and significant that the resolution before us also condemns White supremacists in the United States who have and continue to exploit bigotry and weaponize hate for political gain, targeting traditionally persecuted peoples, including African Americans, Native Americans, and other people of color, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, immigrants, and others with verbal attacks, incitement, and violence.

Let us be very clear: these purveyors of hate will not win because as the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., taught, persecution of any American is an assault on the rights and freedoms of all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, anti-Semitism is wrong and based on a lie—as are racism, Islamophobia, sexism, homophobia, and xenophobia—but remember the words of William Cullen Bryant, who said:

Truth, crushed to earth, shall rise again;
The eternal years of God are hers;
But Error, wounded, writhes in pain,
And dies among his worshippers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote for H. Res. 183 and I encourage every person in the United States to confront and reject anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, racism, and other forms of bigotry and do all they can to ensure that the United States lives up to the transcendent principles of tolerance, religious freedom, and equal protection as embodied in the Declaration of Independence and the first and 14th amendments to the Constitution that have made it the envy and the hope of the world.

IAN STEWART EARNS THE RANK
OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2019

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ian Stewart of Pearland, TX for earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Eagle Scout is the highest honor a Boy Scout can earn.

Only a small percentage of Boy Scouts reach the rank of Eagle Scout. This honor requires years of effort to develop the necessary leadership, service and outdoor skills. To earn it, Ian developed and provided leadership to others in a service project. For his project, Ian refurbished soccer goals on fields throughout the Shadow Creek Ranch Planned Community in Pearland, TX. His dedication to our community has prepared him to be a leader in his future endeavors and benefit all those around him.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Ian for becoming an Eagle Scout. We are proud of his continued success and thank him for his dedication to making our community a better place.

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF VICTOR VALLEY HONORED BY THE APPLE VALLEY OPTIMIST CLUB

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2019

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible service of the Assistance League of Victor Valley, who was honored by the Apple Valley Optimist Club on Saturday, March 8.

Founded in 1979 and achieving Full Chapter Status in 1982, the Assistance League of Victor Valley is a nonprofit organization focused on identifying and funding ongoing, community based philanthropic programs in the Victor Valley. Their signature program is Operation School Bell, which provides new school clothes to children in need living in the Victor Valley. Since the Operation began, 27,244 local children have received clothing, with 1,357 students receiving clothing during the 2017–2018 school year. The Assistance League has also logged 28,000 volunteer hours during that same period and gave 1,620 bears to children in local hospitals.

The Assistance League of Victor Valley is one of the most effective nonprofit organizations in the High Desert, and I am proud to see them receiving some very well-deserved recognition. I wish them nothing but success as they continue to help the less fortunate in our community.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DALE COOK

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2019

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with Congressman JERRY McNERNEY to pay tribute to Dale Cook and recognize his service to our country.

Dale was born in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. After enlisting in the Marine Corps as a high school senior in 1944, Dale was assigned to the 4th Marine Division on Maui.

Seventy-four years ago, Dale was one of the few surviving Marines who invaded Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945. He was wounded by an enemy grenade and evacuated to Guam where he joined the first of his many Veterans organizations, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

After returning to the United States, Dale was recruited by the Atomic Energy Commission as a regional public information officer and later moved to the San Francisco Bay Area, where he spent the rest of his career and retirement. He joined the Army Reserve as the Chief Public Information Officer of the 6th Army command at the Presidio of San Francisco, while continuing his involvement in veterans organizations.

Dale continued to serve his community by leading an annual commemoration of the Battle of Iwo Jima for many years, first at the Golden Gate National Cemetery and later at the Marines Memorial Club in San Francisco. He also volunteered as a Boy Scout troop leader and mentored many Eagle Scouts. A proud Marine, he started raising English Bulldogs, the military branch's mascot.

Dale will be sincerely missed by his family, the veteran community, and all those who had the great pleasure of knowing him. He will be remembered for his service to and love for his country.

HAPPY SESQUICENTENNIAL—CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF THE WEST POINT ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES PART I (1969–1990)

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2019

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to include in the RECORD an article by Keith J. Hamel honoring the 150th Anniversary of the West Point Association of Graduates.

“On May 22, 2019, the West Point Association of Graduates will turn 150 years old. Think about it—one hundred and fifty years! When “the Association,” as it used to be known, held its first organizational meeting in the office of Dr. Horace Webster, Class of 1818, President of the College of the City of New York, the light bulb had yet to be invented; the telephone had not been patented; the U.S. flag had only 37 stars; and the machine gun, dynamite, and the torpedo were less than a decade old.

The year was 1869, an important year in the history of West Point graduates. On March 4 of that year, Ulysses S. Grant, Class of 1843, became the 18th President of the United States. Grant, of course, received national acclaim for commanding the Union Army to victory during the U.S. Civil War, accepting the surrender of Confederate forces from another West Point graduate, Robert E. Lee, Class of 1829. That recent conflict, roughly four years over by the time a handful of graduates met in Webster's office one Saturday afternoon for that first meeting, is often cited as the reason the “Association” was formed; that is, to heal the divide between West Point graduates who fought on opposing sides of the U.S. Civil War. While it may be romanticized, such a theory is plausible. After all, bridging chasms seemed to be the spirit of the age in 1869. On May 2 of that year the “golden spike” of the First Transcontinental Railroad was driven into the ground at Promontory Summit of Utah Territory, linking America's East Coast with its West Coast. Later that year, on November 17, the Suez Canal officially opened, finally completing a centuries-old idea to create a waterway between the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean.

Yet when Robert Anderson, Class of 1825, wrote to Sylvanus Thayer, Class of 1808, on January 28, 1869 to propose the formation of “an association of the graduates of the Military Academy,” he never mentioned the Civil War as a *raison d'être* for this endeavor (and Anderson was the officer in charge of Fort Sumter when it was fired upon by P.G.T. Beauregard, Class of 1838, to start that war!) Instead, Anderson plainly told Thayer he wanted to form an association “to see what should be done to perfect and perpetuate this truly national Institution.” [West Point] and, in his February 12, 1869 reply to Anderson, Thayer agreed.

Three months later, 15 graduates gathered in Webster's office for the purposes of officially forming an “Association of the Graduates of the U.S. Military Academy.” Neither the Civil War nor the “perpetuation” of West Point was explicitly mentioned in the minutes from that meeting. Instead, the

graduates present, including Anderson, passed seven resolutions, the last pertaining to the “fundamental principle that the characteristic of this Association shall be.” According to the “Preliminary Meeting” minutes, Reverend Dr. Francis Vinton, Class of 1830, Assistant Minister of Trinity Church in New York City, introduced a resolution that the Association be “formed purely for the promotion of social and fraternal intercourse.” Vinton's resolution became Article II of the new Association's Constitution: “The objects of this Association shall be to cherish the memories of our Alma Mater, and to promote the social intercourse and fraternal fellowship of its graduates.”

Does this end the debate regarding the purpose of the Association of Graduates' founding? Not quite. Article IV of the Association's original Constitution complicates matters. It states, “Political, or any other discussions foreign to the purposes of the Association, as set forth in this Constitution, or any proceedings of such a tendency, are declared inimical to the purposes of this organization, and are prohibited.” Such an article calls attention to itself and seems to support the notion that the recent U.S. Civil War and its political aftermath might impede the formation of an Association of West Point Graduates. Furthermore, Article III, 2, states, “The oldest graduate belonging to the Association shall be President; and in his absence the senior graduate present shall preside at the meeting of the Association.” This made Thayer the “official” first president. Although Thayer never attended a meeting of the Association of Graduates (and, interestingly, his name does not appear on the roll of members until 1872), this passage marries Thayer's legacy with the creation of the Association, including his desire to form such an organization for the benefit of West Point. Going forward, both implicit political matters and the promotion of West Point routinely enter into the dialogue regarding the Association's early history and business.

Take the Association's first public act after a committee of 13 graduates, chaired by Webster, met on June 16, 1869 and drafted the constitution and bylaws for the new Association. Soon after, the committee mailed the proposed constitution and bylaws to all graduates; 128 joined (of more than 1,350 living graduates), including three former Confederate officers: Richard S. Ewell, Class of 1840; James Longstreet, Class of 1842; and Nathaniel R. Chambliss, Class of May 1861. In fact, Ewell sent a letter back with his dues stating, “I cannot think that any graduate of the Academy would, unless blinded by prejudices, decline to aid the work of reuniting . . . a bond broken asunder by civil discord and war.” Conversely, Simon Bolivar Buckner, Class of 1844, the first Confederate general to surrender an Army to Union forces, perhaps stinging from so-called “Radical Republicans” attempts to strip ex-rebels of their right to vote and hold office in the First Reconstruction Act (1867), wrote back to the committee saying, “Fraternal fellowship can exist only in the light of an acknowledged equality, [which] is denounced by the legislation of the central government which extends its fostering care to our class of graduates of our Alma Mater and at the same time prescribes the other . . . an acknowledgement of the inequality which renders agreeable social intercourse impossible.” Buckner's sentiment becomes an important theme taken up by committee member Charles Davies, Class of 1815, in his address to graduates at the Association's first reunion on June 17, 1870.

Forty-three graduates sat in the pews of the West Point Chapel (now known as the Old Cadet Chapel) to hear Davies' address.

Although no Southern graduates attended that first open meeting (more likely due to the prohibitive cost of travel than to ideological allegiances), Davies used poetic language in his speech to delicately and diplomatically address the issue raised by Buckner, that is the seeming rift between graduates who fought on opposite sides of the U.S. Civil War. "We come together as the scattered members of a household after a long separation—some full of years, some full of honors," said Davies, recalling the metaphor of a "divided house" used by President Abraham Lincoln in a famous 1858 speech. Why would Davies use such language? The answer is reunification. But, digging deeper, it is not just a reunification of graduates from the North and the South; it is a reunification between West Point graduates and the United States of America. Just one sentence prior, Davies said, "We come together under the old flag, dear to every American heart, to recall and contemplate that springtime of life . . ." In this and his future reunion addresses, Davies continually uses a "reunification with the country" theme to tacitly unite graduates from the North and from the South behind a single purpose.

"We meet to revive cherished memories . . . and to renew, together, vows of perpetual allegiance to our country," Davies said in the opening to his 1870 address. As noted by George Pappas in his book *To the Point: The United States Military Academy 1802-1902*, "The defection of southern cadets and graduates, termed treason by many antagonists, was used as a stepping-stone for criticizing West Point in general and its graduates in particular." The Civil War thrust West Point and its graduates, particularly those who defected to fight for the Confederate cause, into the national spotlight, and, as noted by Harry Williams in his article "The Attack Upon West Point During the Civil War," ". . . the [Academy] faced and weathered a series of dangerous attacks designed to destroy its existence."

Those who gathered in those early reunions must have been aware that West Point stood on precarious footing in the years immediately following the Civil War, as well as the distrust felt for Southern graduates. In his address at the Second Annual Reunion on June 17, 1871, Davies' concluding words seem to be as much for the graduates as for a public he felt may still be wary of the future political intentions of West Point alumni. "But above all, fellow graduates," Davies said, "let us remember that the nation which sustains and has spread its mantle over this institution, expects from every graduate, at all times, and wheresoever he may be, the full measure of his duty." Then in his last (and longest) address to graduates, commemorating the centennial of the Battle of Bunker Hill (1875), Davies made his most overt gesture to reunification between graduates from the North and South via renewed allegiance to the nation. He began by reminding graduates of the resolution passed at the annual meeting a year earlier to invite graduates from "all sections of the country" to the 1875 reunion. Seven of the Association's 12 former Confederate officer members attended this reunion, the most ever up to that point. "[W]e have come here today, to bury within the circuit of these mountains all recollections which can separate us from each other, or from our common country," Davies said, ". . . and to say to all, for each, and to each for all, that from this auspicious day, all the graduates of this Institution will recognize each other as friends. Henceforth, and forever, we have one flag—one country—one destiny."

Interestingly, before championing the patriotism of West Point graduates, Davies

lauded the accomplishments of West Point itself through its graduates. "We behold, also, a great Institution," he said in his 1875 address, ". . . scattering science and knowledge over the nation," which seems to pay homage to Thayer and Anderson's original aim for the Association, "to see what should be done to perfect and perpetuate this truly national Institution." Davies died in 1876, and, according to David Pinder '86, in his paper "The Association of Graduates of the U.S. Military Academy, 1869-1902: The Healing Years," the leadership of the AOG passed to George Cullum, Class of 1833. One of the original 15 members of the Association, Cullum became a member of AOG's Executive Committee in 1871 and chaired this committee until his death in 1892. A year before those 15 grads met in Webster's office to form the Association, Cullum published the first edition of his three-volume *Biographical Register of the Officers of the United States Military Academy*, which he described in its preface as a record of West Point graduates' service to the nation so as to give "world-renown to their Alma Mater." In the preface to his third edition of the Register, published in 1891, Cullum's intent became more explicit. There he wrote that he hoped "this last legacy to Alma Mater and her numerous sons may further prove the usefulness of that noble national institution," nearly echoing Thayer and Anderson's original aim for the Association. While reunification seemed to be Davies' primary ambition, championing the accomplishments of graduates for the glory of West Point was clearly the achievement for which Cullum was known. In fact, at that first meeting in 1870, the first order of business after approving the constitution and by-laws was adopting a resolution that gave thanks to Cullum "for his truthful and admirable annals of the Military Academy and its Graduates."

Cullum demonstrated his philosophy for West Point and its graduates in the biographies he wrote for "Necrology," that section of the Association's published annual report identifying the graduates who had died since the last meeting. In the 1871 Annual Reunion, the first to acknowledge the author of each graduate's biography, Cullum is cited as having written five of them, the first being for Ethan Allen Hitchcock, Class of 1817. And while other authors devoted paragraphs to the deceased, Cullum wrote pages (Hitchcock's biography is 10 pages long). Cullum continued writing "Necrology" biographies right up until his own death, the last one for Montgomery C. Meigs, Class of 1836, who died January 2, 1892. Cullum himself died February 28 of that year, and his own "Necrology" biography appears just six pages after Meigs'.

Cullum had started writing an extended biography of Thayer for the 1873 Annual Reunion, but, according to a Secretary note in that record, Cullum's absence in Europe prevented the completion of it in time for publication. Ten years later, Cullum likely incorporated portions of that biography into the momentous address he delivered at the unveiling of the Thayer Statue on June 11, 1883, touting Thayer's impact on West Point and the nation. Consider this passage: "With each evolving year of Colonel Thayer's Superintendency, class after class was graduated, adding to our army 570 officers, of whom the nation may be justly proud, for in that galaxy are many bright particular stars which have given lustre to our arms, illuminated the paths of science, brightened halls of learning, and adorned various vocations of usefulness." Cullum was perpetuating the national institution of West Point by demonstrating the perfections of its honorific father. But this is not all that Cullum did as the Association's de facto leader.

Cullum had been Chairman of the Thayer Monument Committee, which was established at the June 12, 1873 annual meeting, and was instrumental in bringing Thayer's remains from his hometown of South Braintree, Massachusetts to West Point. This accomplishment could be viewed as the Association's first official act of external business (a year earlier the Executive Committee resolved to have the body of Joseph Swift, Class of 1802, exhumed and re-interred at the West Point Cemetery, but this ambition never materialized). Thayer's remains were re-interred at West Point on November 8, 1877, but the monument intended to honor his memory remained unfinished, as only \$1,225 of an anticipated \$3,100 had been raised from graduates. At the 10th Annual Reunion on June 12, 1879, feeling that the plans to obtain funds to build a stone memorial of Thayer for placement on the Plain were "impractical," Cullum proposed that a smaller monument be built over Thayer's grave. However, in his address at that reunion, Cullum's classmate Francis H. Smith, Class of 1833, the first Southern graduate to speak before AOG members, implored graduates not to forget the original monument plan, saying, "He was a noble specimen of West Point character, and I trust the scheme will not be abandoned of putting, in enduring marble or bronze, a colossal statue of Brvt. Brig. Gen. Sylvanus Thayer, the father of the U.S. Military Academy."

A year later, at the 11th Annual Reunion, George Andrews, Class of 1851, Treasurer of the Thayer Monument Fund, reported that all but \$160 of the funds needed for the monument remained uncollected. The project was further delayed when the committee hired the New England Granite Company "to execute a statue eight feet three inches high, standing upon a well-proportioned pedestal of eight feet, both of pure white granite," and the cost jumped to \$4,000. To raise money to cover the escalating cost, Cullum reportedly addressed "personal letters to each living graduate who has a diploma signed by General Thayer." In his June 10, 1882 Thayer Monument Committee report to AOG's Executive Committee, Cullum noted that the statue would be ready by winter, "in ample time to be erected before the Reunion of this Association in June 1883" (it was completed on June 9, 1883, which would have been Thayer's 98th birthday). At the 14th Annual Reunion on June 12, 1883, Cullum furnished a final report on the Thayer Monument to the Association, saying the statue "is worthy of the great Superintendent, whose majestic port [sic] and intellectual visage [it] so faithfully represents; and it is worthy of this Association which has preserved, amid so many difficulties, to raise such a memorial to the 'Father of the Military Academy.'" Showing its appreciation for Cullum's efforts to bring the Thayer Monument to fruition, the Executive Committee unanimously passed a resolution that thanked him for admirably performing his duties.

A year after erecting Thayer Monument, AOG moved on to its next order of major business, another project that took years to materialize and one that ultimately depended greatly on Cullum. At the 15th Annual Reunion in 1884, John S. McCalmont, Class of 1842, proposed that Congress should be petitioned to make an appropriation for the purposes of furnishing a hall for AOG use at West Point, given that the Association had received so many gifts of manuscripts, portraits, books, letters, and more and had no room to safely keep them or exhibit them. The matter was tabled and reintroduced three years later at the 1887 meeting, but members felt that the USMA Board of Visitors would have better luck securing the

funds from Congress for building such a hall than their resolution. "The Association of Graduates cannot raise the necessary money," Charles Braden, Class of 1869, AOG's Secretary at that time, flatly stated. Then, given the lack of reference to it in meeting notes, the Executive Committee seems to forget about this idea for a memorial hall for half a decade, but Cullum did not forget. Upon his death, Cullum bequeathed \$250,000 to the U.S. government for the purposes of erecting such a hall at West Point.

According to a March 7, 1892 New York Times article reporting on his will, Cullum's gift, "Follow[ed] an idea which he had for some years entertained." Part of that idea likely involved Cullum's 1891 proposal that Executive Committee incorporate the Association under the laws of New York state. The committee unanimously adopted Cullum's proposal and filed a certificate of incorporation in November of that year. As some have hypothesized, Cullum proposed this idea because he had already made his estate plans, and, rather than gift his considerable fortune to what might be characterized as an informal fraternal club, he wanted to leave it to an organization with legitimacy and longevity. Furthermore, showing his prescience, Cullum explicitly stated in his will for the memorial hall to be built "at farthest within five years after my death" (perhaps because he witnessed no movement on an idea that originated in 1844). Cullum's bequest was formally accepted by an act of Congress, and the architectural firm McKim, Mead & White was appointed in 1894 to design the building. Construction began in 1896, with the cornerstone being ceremoniously laid on April 15, and construction was completed on December 21, 1898. After it was furnished (Cullum also left \$20,000 in his will for this purpose), the hall was dedicated on June 12, 1900, the date of the 31st Annual Reunion. According to a July 1900 article by Charles Lamed, Class of 1870, in *Junior Munsey Magazine*, "This hall is distinctly a monument to West Point and all that it stands for, given by a son of the Academy to his brother alumni and their well beloved mother; designed to commemorate their deeds, to preserve their names, and to bear witness to the enduring work of the foremost military school of the age."

Thirty-one years after its founding, the Association of the Graduates of the U.S. Military Academy had 473 members on its rolls, and those members now had a home at West Point. In his will, Cullum indicated that it was his desire that the gifted memorial hall be used for "the Assemblage and Dinners of the Association of Graduates of the United States Military Academy, and, if practicable, I wish that lodging accommodations should be provided in some part of it for the members of that Association while attending its annual reunions." Furthermore, they now had funds. Cullum's will also provided \$10,000 for "the current and necessary expenses" of the Association. This is the genesis of what is now known as the West Point Association of Graduates' "Long Gray Line Endowment." While Cullum was Chairman of AOG's Executive Committee, AOG's balance sheet consistently ran between \$1,000-\$1,500, but, thanks to his gift, it grew by 3 00 percent in one year.

At the turn of the 20th century the Association, now with a home and with funds, started to focus on growth and accountability. This began with two notable changes to the Association's Constitution and Bylaws. First, in 1897, the Executive Committee decided that an elected graduate, rather than the oldest graduate, would serve as the Association's President, and voted accordingly to change Article III of the Constitution. They nominated George Greene, Class of 1823, to

be President, and he was unanimously elected (ironically, Greene was also the oldest graduate on the Association's membership roll). Then, at the 1900 Annual Reunion, the Executive Committee voted to amend the Bylaws so that initiation fees were reduced from a one-time \$10 payment to an initial \$2 fee with an additional \$1 paid each subsequent year for the next decade. The prorated fee cycle spurred growth in new membership. In 1898, only three graduates elected to pay the prescribed \$10 initiation fee; in 1902, more than 70 paid the new \$2 fee. New membership also fostered more graduate participation. In 1899, only seven members attended the 30th annual reunion, but in 1902 reportedly some 350 graduates returned to West Point for the annual alumni reunion.

During the dedication of Cullum Hall, Alexander S. Webb, Class of 1855, who was present in Webster's office at the original May 22, 1869 meeting, looked back on that historic day and gave a brief account of the organization of the Association. No records exist of his remarks, but it is easy to imagine he would have said that the 15 graduates who gathered to form an "Association of the Graduates of the U.S. Military Academy" would be proud that, 31 years later, their idea had figuratively and literally found a home, that more and more graduates were coming back to that home each year, and that the Association was continuing to promote the social intercourse and fraternal fellowship of USMA graduates."

175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAUK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2019

Mr. POCAN. Madam Speaker,

Whereas, the Sauk County Government is celebrating its 175th anniversary and has made a distinct impact in the state of Wisconsin; and

Whereas, Sauk County was first established in 1844 when Wisconsin's Territorial Legislature passed an act organizing Sauk County; and

Whereas, Sauk County, from its humble beginnings of only a few hundred residents, has grown along with the state of Wisconsin; and

Whereas, Sauk County is now one of the top ten fastest growing counties in Wisconsin with a population greater than 60,000; and

Whereas, Sauk County continues to generate some of the most significant numbers of tourism in the Second Congressional District of Wisconsin; and

Whereas, both the pioneers that helped build Sauk County and the residents still living there today deserve recognition; now, therefore, I, U.S. Representative MARK POCAN, do hereby proclaim the Sauk County Government on this special 175th anniversary, a keystone to the ongoing growth and development of Wisconsin.

On behalf of the Second Congressional District of Wisconsin, I wish the Sauk County Government continued growth and success in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING JOHN ANDERSON

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2019

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Anderson of College Station, Texas, for his leadership and service to our Brazos Valley community.

John grew up in a military family and lived all across the United States before settling in El Paso, Texas where he attended the University of Texas-El Paso. He went on to serve in the U.S. Army from 1968 to 1973 and in the Army Reserve from 1973 to 1986. In 1986, he moved with his wife, Ann, to the Brazos Valley.

John came to the Brazos Valley to work at Merrill Lynch, where he recently retired as a vice president and senior consultant. Since moving to our area, he has been involved with many community organizations.

John has served on the boards of the Bryan Rotary Club, the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce, MSC OPAS, Brazos Valley Veterans Memorial, Boys and Girls Club of the Brazos Valley, College Station Medical Center, Habitat for Humanity, Military Heritage Center, and the Brazos Valley Economic Development Corporation.

John is credited with building a house for Habitat for Humanity, the installing of statues of Veterans Park, fundraising for the Bryan Rotary Field of Valor, and building a museum that honors veterans of our nation's wars. He assisted with building the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce's federal and state legislative plans. His dedication to the greater community earned him their title of Citizen of the Year in 2016.

John has also gone above and beyond to positively impact younger generations. He has mentored students at Texas A&M's Mays Business School, the Bush School of Government and Public Service, and the McFerrin Center for Entrepreneurship's Entrepreneurship Bootcamp, which serves disabled veterans.

I am also blessed to have John serve as a member of the Military Academy Review Board which assists me in the nomination of young Texans to attend our nation's service academies.

John and Ann have sponsored international exchange students and served as host parents. John ensures that the students have a rich experience in the United States, bringing them to Texas A&M football games, showing them around campus, and bringing them to Washington, D.C. to learn about our nation's history, all at his own expense.

In retirement, John is working to further his education. He is currently enrolled at the Bush School's certificate in nonprofit management. Once that is complete, he will work towards the advanced international affairs certificate.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to speak on behalf of all Brazos Valley Residents to thank John Anderson for his selfless service to our nation and to our communities. We also wish him the best in his future endeavors.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country, for our veterans, for our military men and women who protect us, and for our first responders who keep us safe at home.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HIDDEN
FIGURES CONGRESSIONAL GOLD
MEDAL ACT

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I am joined by my good friend from Oklahoma, Ranking Member LUCAS, in introducing the Hidden Figures Congressional Gold Medal Act.

Katherine Johnson, Dr. Christine Darden, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson were pioneers. At a time of male dominance and racial segregation at NASA, women and their talents were often overlooked. When women were permitted to contribute, they were routinely not given credit for their work. Women of color faced additional daily indignities. In spite of these challenges, these women chose to apply their considerable talents to help land the first man on the moon. Their stories, portrayed in the Hidden Figures book and film, represent the stories of hundreds of women computers, mathematicians, and engineers working at NASA and its precursor organization, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), from the 1930s to the 1970s.

The success of the NASA space program is due in large part to their brilliance, hard work, and perseverance in the face of adversity. What better example can we hope to give our sons and daughters?

This bill will bestow Congress's highest civilian honor in appreciation of the achievements of Katherine Johnson, Dr. Christine Darden, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson, and all the women computers, mathematicians, and engineers at NACA and NASA during this important time in our history.

I am pleased to be joined by Ranking Member LUCAS and our colleagues in the Senate in introducing the Hidden Figures Congressional Gold Medal Act. I commend Senator COONS for his leadership in championing this bill. Fifty years after the Apollo 11 moon landing, it is high time we recognize the contributions the women of NASA have made in service to the nation.

I urge my colleagues to join us and help us move this legislation forward into law.

NEW HOPE PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH REOPENS AND CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2019

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the reopening of New Hope Presbyterian Church in Katy, Texas.

During Hurricane Harvey, the New Hope Presbyterian Church sustained over \$1.5 million in flood damage. The reopening of the church coincided with its 40 year anniversary. Pastor Long and the 100 person congregation have dedicated their church's outreach efforts on ways they can help and serve their community while growing in their faith. The church also serves as the home to the Houston Ko-

rean Community Church and a food pantry for the local community.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to New Hope Presbyterian Church on their new facilities and 40th anniversary. Thank them again for bringing faith, fellowship and service to our community; we look forward to another 40 years.

COMMEMORATING THE 125TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE CARTHAGE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2019

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the Carthage Public Library of Carthage, Illinois, for celebrating their 125th anniversary.

In 1894, the Carthage Public Library was officially opened as a circulating library for the residents of the city. Since then, the library has grown immensely; it now provides the community with far more than great reads. The library has taken on its own role in the area. This is where the residents of Carthage go to stay current on local affairs, and where the youth go to learn life skills that strengthen both their mind and body.

The Carthage Public Library is known throughout west-central Illinois for the services that it has provided for the community over the last 125 years. Today, we celebrate the library and staff for their dedication to serving Carthage. I extend my sincere congratulations to the Carthage Public Library for a successful 125 years, and I wish them even more success going forward.

BOBBY TARANGO HONORED BY
THE APPLE VALLEY OPTIMIST
CLUB

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2019

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and commitment of Bobby Tarango, who was honored by the Apple Valley Optimist Club on Saturday, March 8.

Bobby Tarango has worked as a sales representative for Chicago Title Company for the past 22 years, where he has worked to make Chicago Title one of the premier players in the High Desert real estate industry. He has twice served as the Affiliate Director for the Victor Valley Association of Realtors, previously served as Chairman of the Board for St. Timothy's Preparatory School in Apple Valley, and currently serves on the board of directors for the Victor Valley Chamber of Commerce and the St. Mary's Hospital Foundation Board. In his spare time, Bobby enjoys coaching his son's and daughter's soccer teams, and serves as Vice President of Storm Soccer Club and President of Storm Recreational Soccer.

Bobby Tarango is consistently doing all he can to make the High Desert a great place to

live and raise a family. I congratulate him on being honored by the Apple Valley Optimist Club, and I wish him years of happiness and success.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF REP-
RESENTATIVE JOHN MARSH, JR.

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2019

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of John Otho "Jack" Marsh, Jr., who passed away on February 4, 2019. John was 92 years old.

Jack was known for his love for the community and his years of public service. At the age of eighteen, Jack enlisted in the United States Army during World War II in Germany. From 1954 to 1976, Jack served in the Army Reserves and the Virginia National Guard 29th Division. Not long after his service, Jack earned a law degree and began a career in politics. From 1963 to 1971, he served four terms for what was then the 7th District of Virginia. Choosing not to seek a fifth term, he continued his career as a Counselor in President Gerald Ford's cabinet and eventually as the Secretary of the Army for the longest time in our nation's history. From 1989–1994, Jack served as Chairman of the Reserve Forces Policy Board, a position he was appointed to by former Secretary of Defense Cheney.

Congressman Marsh served for over two decades on the Advisory Council of the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences (VIMS) and received the VIMS Pathfinder Award. Much of their amazing work impacts my very own district, as they work to meet the issues facing the Chesapeake Bay and the coastal ocean. Jack also served on the Board of Visitors at Virginia Military Institute (VMI) and is one of the few honorary alumni of VMI. Jack was honored with the prestigious VMI New Market Medal, for his public service and role in the preservation and interpretation of the Hall of Valor. The Commonwealth not only lost a public servant and community leader, but also a patriot who has dedicated his entire life to serving our great nation.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in remembrance of John Otho "Jack" Marsh, Jr. Words cannot express our gratitude. May God bless Jack and his family as his legacy lives on through his service.

COMMEMORATING BRAIN
AWARENESS WEEK

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2019

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, this week commemorates Brain Awareness Week which presents an important opportunity to educate lawmakers, students, and the broader public about brain science, and its many impacts and benefits. This is critical when you consider that brain disorders and diseases affect the lives of nearly 100 million Americans—from Alzheimer's to ALS to mental illness.

Neurological and neurodegenerative disorders are among the leading causes of disability in the United States and around the world—greater than heart disease and cancer put together. As society ages, this number will increase exponentially as will the cost to the healthcare system and to the economy. Yet, the underlying causes of most neurological diseases remain unknown.

Neuroscience is the next great frontier. Research and work being done in this field needs to be front and center in both the private world and Congress.

The bipartisan Congressional Neuroscience Caucus' mission is to build awareness of the intrinsic role brain research plays in understanding ourselves and our society. As the co-founder and co-chair, I am committed to working on these important issues and hope my colleagues will join our efforts as members of the Congressional Neuroscience Caucus.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
STEPHEN ROBERT SULENTIC

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2019

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Stephen Robert Sulentic, of Houston, who lost his twenty-month long battle with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) on December 18, 2018.

Stephen was born in Omaha, NE on May 3, 1958 to Phyllis Ann Sulentic and Stephen John Sulentic. As a member of the Society of Jesus, he strengthened his faith and devotion to God. Stephen graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts from St. Louis University and later acquired a Master of Arts from the University of Michigan and a Juris Doctorate degree from Harvard Law School. He held many positions in his life ranging from attorney and teacher, to school bus driver and door-to-door salesman. Stephen served as a member of the Mount Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department from 1998 to 2007, where he received the Medal of Valor, the highest honor given by the Mount Lebanon Volunteer Fire Department, for going above and beyond the call of duty. Stephen left a legacy behind in his service to community and commitment to family.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, we mourn the loss of Stephen Robert Sulentic. We wish him fair winds and following seas in heaven.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2019

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, on Friday, I had a family commitment that caused me to miss votes. Had I been able to vote, I would have opposed H.R. 1.

CELEBRATING GINNY TAYLOR'S
100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2019

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to wish Mrs. Ginny Taylor a happy 100th birthday. It has been a delight getting to know Mrs. Taylor and her family since they began splitting their time between homes in Greensboro and Land Harbor in North Carolina's Fifth District.

Mrs. Taylor is a mother of two, grandmother of three, great-grandmother of six, and beloved by all of them. Shortly after moving to North Carolina, her husband, Delmer, started Delta Plating, and she went back to school to learn how to keep books and even helped in the plant and driving trucks for the company.

Mrs. Taylor remains an engaged citizen to this day, especially in bridge circles and First Baptist Church, where everyone enjoys her pies.

At 100, I hope to be as full of life as Mrs. Taylor, and I wish her a wonderful birthday and many, many more to come.

RECOGNIZING AMERICAN LEGION
POST 159

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2019

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize American Legion Earl Graham Post 159 for the 100th anniversary of their organization.

The American Legion was founded on March 15, 1919 at the American Club in Paris by members of the American Expeditionary Forces. The organization was chartered by Congress on September 16, 1919 as a patriotic veteran organization.

American Legion Post 159 was also first organized in Brazos County in 1919 and invitations to join were published in the Bryan Eagle newspaper beginning on February 6, 1920. The post was formally chartered in Bryan, Texas on February 13, 1920.

Post 159 is named in honor of 1st Lieutenant Cyrus Earl Graham, a member of the Texas A&M Class of 1916 who served in the Army Air Corps during World War I.

Lieutenant Graham was born in Brazos County and attended Texas A&M where he was a member of the Ross Volunteers, and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree. He volunteered for service in the Army Air Corps and died in a plane crash in France in 1918, two days before the Armistice ending the war. Several years later, his remains were returned to the United States and he was buried in the Bryan City Cemetery. Every November 9th, the Post 159 Honor Guard pays their respect to his memory at a ceremony at his gravesite.

Since its inception, American Legion Post 159 has been a service and community minded organization. Post 159 committed 10,000 dollars to the Brazos Valley Veterans Memorial to assist with the creation of a permanent World War I memorial in Veterans Park. Every

month the Post sends 10 to 15 care boxes to active duty service members who are overseas. They provide emergency financial assistance to veterans in need, sponsor a veteran's resource fair, and host a weekly coffee for our community's veterans. Post 159's Honor Guard also provides services including a rifle salute and the playing of TAPS for over 70 veteran funerals each year.

Additionally, Post 159, and its Auxiliary, sponsor at least 20 high school seniors yearly to the American Legion's Boys and Girls State conference. They also sponsor Boy Scout Troop 159 and the Junior Shooting Sports Program.

Madam Speaker, American Legion Earl Graham Post 159 has had a deep impact in the Brazos Valley since their organization in 1919. Their service to current members of the armed forces, veterans, and youth of the community cannot be overstated.

I have requested that a United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to honor the work and legacy of Earl Graham Post 159 and its members.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country, for our veterans, for our military men and women who protect us, and for our first responders who keep us safe at home.

WARREN PHILLIPS NAMED SUGAR
LAND EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2019

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Warren Phillips for being named the 2018 Sugar Land Employee of the Year.

Warren is a firefighter and paramedic with the Sugar Land Fire-EMS Department and also serves on the West Fort Bend Regional SWAT Team. He was nominated and awarded this high honor by his peers for his unwavering commitment to our Sugar Land community and its citizens. Working with the Sugar Land—Ironman Sports Medicine Institute, Warren implemented a "Tactical Athlete Program" for the SWAT team and teaches a combat casualty care class for local police departments. Warren is also a U.S. Army veteran. His service and dedication to both the United States and Texas help keep us safe and free.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to Warren Phillips on being named the 2018 Sugar Land Employee of the Year. I thank him for his service to our Sugar Land community.

REMEMBERING MORGAN NELSON

HON. XOCHITL TORRES SMALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2019

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of an important and respected member of the southern New Mexico community, Morgan Nelson, who on March 1, 2019 passed away at the age of 99. Morgan

was a champion of water, cotton, and education—issues he fought for as a private citizen and as a Representative in the New Mexico State Legislature, where he served for 12 years. His proudest achievement was the proposal and enactment of the junior-college system for New Mexico. Later in life, Morgan and his wife Joyce established two endowed scholarships, one with the New Mexico State University (NMSU) Foundation and one with the Eastern New Mexico University—Roswell (ENMU—R) Foundation. Morgan served on the Chaves County Community Corrections Advisory Panel and strongly advocated for community based mental health services. He also served as Flood Commissioner for Chaves County for the past 10 years, up until the day he died.

After graduating from New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts (now New Mexico State University), Morgan served in World War II for 5 years in the Middle East and Europe. He later served in Korea, ultimately leaving the service with the rank of Colonel after 20 years with the U.S. Air Force Reserve.

Upon returning to New Mexico after World War II, Morgan joined his family's farms in Cottonwood and East Grand Plains, and he farmed the rest of his life. He was particularly active in promoting cotton, serving over 20 years on the Cotton Incorporated (CI) Board of Directors, becoming president of the 1517 Cotton Association, working as a member of the Board of Directors of the Southwestern Irrigated Cotton Growers (SWIG), and staying active in the NMSU College of Agriculture's cotton research and promotion. Morgan earned the nickname "Mr. Cotton" and was among the first five inductees into the Cotton's Hall of Fame in 2014.

Morgan's family included his wife, Joyce LaSuer Walsh Nelson, who passed away in 2008 after 58 years of marriage. They have three daughters, Margo Eichwald, Ann Houghtaling, and Jane McLaughlin, seven grandchildren and numerous great and great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, Morgan Nelson's impact on southern New Mexico and our region cannot be overstated. I ask that my colleagues join me in remembering him for his tireless service and dedication. I join his family, friends and all of New Mexico to honor his legacy and celebrate his life.

UNCF 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ALMA S. ADAMS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2019

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 75th anniversary of the United Negro College Fund.

UNCF was founded in 1944 by Frederick Douglass Patterson to help increase the number of black Americans enrolled in college.

In honor of UNCF's remarkable achievements, last week I joined with my colleague and Bipartisan HBCU Caucus Co-Chair Representative BRADLEY BYRNE to introduce a resolution honoring UNCF as a strong organization that has a profound mission to build a robust and nationally recognized pipeline of students that will become leaders in our 21st century workforce.

In the past 75 years, UNCF has raised over \$4.8 billion in scholarship aid for students and annually awards scholarships and internships to more than 10,000 students nationwide.

Due to the work of UNCF, more than 445 thousand students have earned college degrees and proven true their old adage of "a mind is a terrible thing to waste—but a wonderful thing to invest in."

Happy anniversary UNCF Here's to another 75 years of proven, effective advocacy.

EXPLANATION REGARDING COSPONSORING A BILL

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2019

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, September 29, 2010 I stated for the RECORD:

"Madam Speaker, I wish to clarify that when I cosponsor a bill, it does not necessarily mean that I agree with every part of it. At a minimum, my cosponsorship indicates that I support moving the bill forward through the legislative process, including being marked up in committee, and if sent to the floor by the relevant committee(s), then subject to consideration and amendment on the floor."

Let me reiterate that 2010 statement and provide additional background.

I believe in the legislative process. I believe bills are improved during committee mark-ups and by consideration of amendments on the floor.

The effect of cosponsoring a bill is to signal to the relevant committee chair(s) that I believe the bill should be marked-up in committee, a process that may well improve the bill (and in some cases may make the bill worse). When I decide to cosponsor a bill after it has completed the committee process, I do signal to the Speaker and Rules Committee that I believe the bill should be considered on the floor, and almost always under an open rule.

CONGRATULATING JOHN HEALEY ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2019

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Fort Bend District Attorney John Healey on his retirement.

John Healey spent his 37 year long career serving the folks of Fort Bend County in the office of the District Attorney, including 26 years as the county's top prosecutor. Since beginning in the District Attorney's Office in January of 1982, John successfully handled thousands of cases with dignity and compassion. John's commitment to our community and his dedication to those he has served deserves our utmost respect and gratitude.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to John Healey on his retirement. May he have fair winds and following seas in his retirement.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, March 12, 2019 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 13

Time to be announced

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nomination of John Lowry III, of Illinois, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training.

TBA

10 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Heath P. Tarbert, of Maryland, to be Chairman, and to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

SR-328A

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of Defense
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Department of the Air Force.

SD-192

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the new space race, focusing on ensuring United States global leadership on the final frontier.

SD-G50

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine an original bill entitled, "Diesel Emissions Reduction Act of 2019".

SD-406

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Daniel P. Collins, and Kenneth Kiyul Lee, both of California, both to be a United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

SD-226

10:15 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine a new approach for an era of United States-China competition.

SD-419

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on SeaPower

To receive a closed briefing on the most significant threats to United States Naval Forces and how Naval Forces

MARCH 14

<p>plan to operate in a contested environment.</p> <p>2:30 p.m. Committee on the Budget To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2020.</p> <p>Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Intellectual Property To hold an oversight hearing to examine the United States Patent and Trademark Office.</p> <p>Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship To hold hearings to examine cyber crime, focusing on the threat to small businesses.</p>	<p>SVC-217</p> <p>SD-608</p> <p>SD-226</p> <p>SR-428A</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Committee on Armed Services To hold hearings to examine the Department of Defense budget posture in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2020 and the Future Years Defense Program.</p> <p>10 a.m. Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies To hold hearings to examine the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and other emerging health threats.</p> <p>Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs To hold hearings to examine Financial Stability Oversight Council nonbank designations.</p>	<p>SD-G50</p> <p>SD-124</p> <p>SD-538</p>	<p>Committee on Energy and Natural Resources To hold hearings to examine opportunities to improve access, infrastructure, and permitting for outdoor recreation.</p> <p>10:15 a.m. Committee on Finance To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2020 for the Department of Health and Human Services.</p> <p>1:30 p.m. Committee on Finance To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2020 for the Department of the Treasury.</p> <p>2 p.m. Select Committee on Intelligence Closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters.</p>	<p>SD-366</p> <p>SD-215</p> <p>SD-215</p> <p>SH-219</p>
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Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1749–S1767

Measures Introduced: Five bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 733–737, and S. Res. 102–103. **Page S1762**

Measures Passed:

National Assistive Technology Awareness Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 103, designating March 27, 2019, as “National Assistive Technology Awareness Day”. **Page S1765**

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, the Budget of the United States Government for Fiscal Year 2020; referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986; which was referred to the Committees on the Budget; and Appropriations. (PM–5) **Pages S1760–61**

Matey Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Paul B. Matey, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit. **Pages S1749–59**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 50 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. EX. 41), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1754**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that all post-cloture time on the nomination expire at 2:30 p.m., on Tuesday, March 12, 2019. **Page S1759**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, March 12, 2019. **Page S1765**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

David Bernhardt, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Interior.

John Linder, of Georgia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Association of

Southeast Asian Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador.

Jennifer D. Nordquist, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of two years.

John McLeod Barger, of California, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2021.

Rainey R. Brandt, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Shana Frost Matini, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Michael S. Bogren, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Michigan.

Jeffrey Vincent Brown, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

Stephanie Dawkins Davis, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Brantley Starr, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

Page S1767

Messages from the House: **Page S1761**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Pages S1761, S1765**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S1761**

Executive Communications: **Pages S1761–62**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S1762**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1762–64**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Page S1764**

Additional Statements: **Pages S1759–60**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S1764**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—41) **Page S1754**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 7:27 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, March 12, 2019. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1765.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Ronald D. Vitiello, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary, and Joseph V. Cuffari, of Arizona, to be Inspector General, both of the Department of Homeland Security.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 16 public bills, H.R. 1662–1677; and 9 resolutions, H. Res. 207 and 209–216, were introduced.

Pages H2646–47

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H2647–48

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 208, providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 24) expressing the sense of Congress that the report of Special Counsel Mueller should be made available to the public and to Congress, and providing for proceedings during the period from March 15, 2019, through March 22, 2019 (H. Rept. 116–17).

Page H2646

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Kildee to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H2617

Recess: The House recessed at 12:02 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m.

Page H2617

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Rev. Meg Peery McLaughlin, Burke Presbyterian Church, Burke, VA.

Page H2617

Recess: The House recessed at 2:07 p.m. and reconvened at 4:01 p.m.

Page H2618

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Demonstration Act of 2019: H.R. 1122, to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to carry out a housing choice voucher mobility demonstration to encourage families receiving such voucher assistance to move to lower-poverty areas and expand ac-

cess to opportunity areas, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 387 yeas to 22 nays, Roll No. 119;

Pages H2618–20, H2626–27

Federal Reserve Supervision Testimony Clarification Act: H.R. 974, amended, to amend the Federal Reserve Act to require the Vice Chairman for Supervision of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to provide a written report;

Pages H2620–21

FinCEN Improvement Act of 2019: H.R. 1414, to amend the duties of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) to ensure FinCEN works with Tribal law enforcement agencies, protects against all forms of terrorism, and focuses on virtual currencies; and

Pages H2621–23

Cooperate with Law Enforcement Agencies and Watch Act of 2019: H.R. 758, amended, to provide a safe harbor for financial institutions that maintain a customer account or customer transaction at the request of a Federal or State law enforcement agency, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 404 yeas to 7 nays, Roll No. 120.

Pages H2623–25, H2627

Recess: The House recessed at 4:58 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m.

Page H2626

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he transmitted to Congress his Budget of the United States Government for Fiscal Year 2020—referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 116–3).

Pages H2625–26

Senate Referral: S. 725 was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

Page H2626

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H2626.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2626–27 and H2627. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Committee Meetings

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE REPORT OF SPECIAL COUNSEL MUELLER SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AND TO CONGRESS

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H. Con. Res. 24, expressing the sense of Congress that the report of Special Counsel Mueller should be made available to the public and to Congress. The Committee granted, by nonrecord vote, a closed rule providing for consideration of H. Con. Res. 24, Expressing the sense of Congress that the report of Special Counsel Mueller should be made available to the public and to Congress. The rule provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the concurrent resolution. The rule provides that the amendments to the concurrent resolution and the preamble printed in the Rules Committee report shall be considered as adopted and the concurrent resolution, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the concurrent resolution, as amended. Section 2 of the rule provides that on any legislative day during the period from March 15, 2019, through March 22, 2019: the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment. Section 3 of the rule provides that the Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 2. Testimony was heard from Representatives Cohen and Collins of Georgia.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D178)

S. 483, to enact into law a bill by reference. Signed on March 8, 2019. (Public Law 116–8)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2019

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, to hold hearings to examine artificial intelligence initiatives within the Department of Defense, 2:30 p.m., SR–232A.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: business meeting to consider the nominations of Jeffrey Nadaner, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Claudia Slacik, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and Thelma Drake, of Virginia, to be Federal Transit Administrator; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Semi-Annual Report to Congress, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet, to hold hearings to examine the impact of broadband investments in rural America, 2:30 p.m., SH–216.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine the road ahead for the World Trade Organization, 10:15 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Michael J. Fitzpatrick, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Ecuador, and Ronald Douglas Johnson, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of El Salvador, both of the Department of State, 10 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine reauthorizing the Higher Education Act, focusing on simplifying the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and reducing the burden of verification, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine recommendations from the President's task force on the United States Postal Service, focusing on a path to sustainability, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: to hold an oversight hearing to examine Indian programs on the Government Accountability Office High Risk List, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine GDPR and CCPA, focusing on opt-ins, consumer control, and the impact on competition and innovation, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of multiple veterans service organizations, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:45 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, hearing entitled

“Treasury’s Role in Combatting Financial Crimes”, 10 a.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, budget hearing on the House of Representatives, 10 a.m., HT–2 Capitol.

Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, hearing entitled “Public Witness Testimony”, 10 a.m., 2008 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, oversight hearing on the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, 10:30 a.m., H–309, Capitol.

Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on Related Agencies, 10:30 a.m., 2362–B Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, budget hearing on the United States Capitol Police, 11 a.m., HT–2 Capitol.

Subcommittee on the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “Stakeholder Perspectives: Passenger Rail Development”, 11 a.m., 2358–A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “Oversight of For-Profit Colleges: Protecting Students and Taxpayer Dollars from Predatory Practices”, 2 p.m., 2358–C Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, oversight hearing on the Department of Agriculture, Office of the Inspector General, 2:30 p.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Department of Homeland Security, hearing entitled “Update on Recovery Efforts for 2017 and 2018 Disasters”, 2:30 p.m., 2008 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing entitled “Outside Perspectives on Military Personnel Policy”, 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The President’s 2020 Budget”, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Education and Labor, Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services, hearing entitled “Growing a Healthy Next Generation: Examining Federal Child Nutrition Programs”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled “Legislating to Safeguard the Free and Open Internet”, 11 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “The Fiscal Year 2020 HHS Budget”, 12 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Holding Megabanks Accountable: An Examination of Wells Fargo’s Pattern of Consumer Abuses”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Innovation, hearing entitled “Securing Our Nation’s Chemical Facilities: Stakeholder Perspectives on Improving the CFATS Program”, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on House Administration, Full Committee, business meeting on Committee Resolution 116–08, and

hearing entitled “Committee Funding for the 116th Congress”, 2 p.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties, hearing entitled “History and Enforcement of the Voting Rights Act of 1965”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship, business meeting on adoption of the Subcommittee’s Rules of Procedure and Statement of Policy for Private Immigration Bills; and Request for DHS Departmental Reports on the Beneficiaries of H.R. 1548, 11 a.m., 2237 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law, hearing entitled “The State of Competition in the Wireless Market: Examining the Impact of the Proposed Merger of T-Mobile and Sprint on Consumers, Workers, and the Internet”, 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing entitled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Bureau of Land Management, the United States Forest Service, and the Power Marketing Administrations”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife, hearing entitled “WOW 101: The State of Wildlife”, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy, hearing entitled “Examining the Public Health Risks of Carcinogens in Consumer Products”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Research and Technology, hearing entitled “Engineering Our Way to a Sustainable Bioeconomy”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Rural Development, Agriculture, Trade, and Entrepreneurship, hearing entitled “Challenges in SBA’s State Trade Expansion Program”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Aviation, hearing entitled “Looking Forward: Aviation 2050”, 10 a.m., HVC–210.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Social Security, hearing entitled “Protecting and Improving Social Security: Enhancing Social Security to Strengthen the Middle Class”, 10 a.m., 2020 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures, hearing entitled “Temporary Policy in the Internal Revenue Code”, 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, Full Committee, organizational meeting, 9 a.m., H–313 Capitol.

Full Committee, hearing entitled “Member Day”, 9:30 a.m., H–313 Capitol.

Joint Meetings

Joint Hearing: Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of multiple veterans service organizations, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of March 12 through March 15, 2019

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Paul B. Matey, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation of the nomination at 2:30 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Paul B. Matey, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Neomi J. Rao, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: March 13, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Heath P. Tarbert, of Maryland, to be Chairman, and to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 10 a.m., SR-328A.

Committee on Appropriations: March 13, Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Department of the Air Force, 10 a.m., SD-192.

March 14, Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and other emerging health threats, 10 a.m., SD-124.

Committee on Armed Services: March 12, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, to hold hearings to examine artificial intelligence initiatives within the Department of Defense, 2:30 p.m., SR-232A.

March 13, Subcommittee on SeaPower, to receive a closed briefing on the most significant threats to United States Naval Forces and how Naval Forces plan to operate in a contested environment, 10:30 a.m., SVC-217.

March 14, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the Department of Defense budget posture in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2020 and the Future Years Defense Program, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: March 12, business meeting to consider the nominations of Jeffrey Nadaner, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Claudia Slacik, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and Thelma Drake, of Virginia, to be Federal Transit Administrator; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Semi-Annual Report to Congress, 10 a.m., SD-538.

March 14, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine Financial Stability Oversight Council nonbank designations, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on the Budget: March 13, to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2020, 2:30 p.m., SD-608.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: March 12, Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet, to hold hearings to examine the impact of broadband investments in rural America, 2:30 p.m., SH-216.

March 13, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the new space race, focusing on ensuring United States global leadership on the final frontier, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: March 14, to hold hearings to examine opportunities to improve access, infrastructure, and permitting for outdoor recreation, 10 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: March 13, to hold hearings to examine an original bill entitled, "Diesel Emissions Reduction Act of 2019", 10 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Finance: March 12, to hold hearings to examine the road ahead for the World Trade Organization, 10:15 a.m., SD-215.

March 14, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2020 for the Department of Health and Human Services, 10:15 a.m., SD-215.

March 14, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2020 for the Department of the Treasury, 1:30 p.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: March 12, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Michael J. Fitzpatrick, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Ecuador, and Ronald Douglas Johnson, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of El Salvador, both of the Department of State, 10 a.m., SD-419.

March 13, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine a new approach for an era of United States-China competition, 10:15 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: March 12, to hold hearings to examine reauthorizing the Higher Education Act, focusing on simplifying the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and reducing the burden of verification, 10 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: March 12, to hold hearings to examine recommendations from the President's task force on the United States Postal Service, focusing on a path to sustainability, 2:30 p.m., SD-342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: March 12, to hold an oversight hearing to examine Indian programs on the Government Accountability Office High Risk List, 2:30 p.m., SD-628.

Committee on the Judiciary: March 12, to hold hearings to examine GDPR and CCPA, focusing on opt-ins, consumer control, and the impact on competition and innovation, 10 a.m., SD-226.

March 13, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Daniel P. Collins, and Kenneth Kiyul Lee, both of California, both to be a United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, 10 a.m., SD-226.

March 13, Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the United States Patent and Trademark Office, 2:30 p.m., SD-226.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: March 13, to hold hearings to examine cyber crime, focusing on the threat to small businesses, 2:30 p.m., SR-428A.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: March 12, to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of multiple veterans service organizations, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

March 13, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nomination of John Lowry III, of Illinois, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

Select Committee on Intelligence: March 12, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:45 p.m., SH-219.

March 14, Full Committee, closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SH-219.

House Committees

Committee on Appropriations, March 13, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, oversight hearing on the General Services Administration, 10 a.m., 2362-A Rayburn.

March 13, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled "Gun Violence Prevention and Enforcement", 10:30 a.m., H-309 Capitol.

March 13, Subcommittee on the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled "Stakeholder Perspectives: Building Resilient Communities", 10 a.m., 2358-A Rayburn.

March 13, Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Inspector General, 11 a.m., HT-2 Capitol.

March 13, Subcommittee on the Department of Homeland Security, hearing entitled "Securing Federal Networks and State Election Systems", 2 p.m., 2008 Rayburn.

March 13, Subcommittee on the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of Health and Human Services, 2 p.m., 2358-C Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, March 13, Full Committee, hearing entitled "National Security Challenges and U.S. Military Activity in Europe", 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

March 13, Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing entitled "Ensuring Resiliency of Military Installations and Operations in Response to Climate Changes", 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

March 13, Subcommittee on Intelligence and Emerging Threats and Capabilities, hearing entitled "Fiscal

Year 2020 Budget Request for U.S. Cyber Command and Operations in Cyberspace", 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

March 14, Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, hearing entitled "Department of the Air Force Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Request for Seapower and Projection Forces", 10 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Labor, March 13, Full Committee, hearing entitled "The Cost of College: Student Centered Reforms to Bring Higher Education Within Reach", 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

March 14, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Members Day Hearing: Committee on Education and Labor", 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, March 13, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "Lowering the Cost of Prescription Drugs: Reducing Barriers to Market Competition", 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

March 13, Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change, hearing entitled "Mismanaging Chemical Risks: EPA's Failure to Protect Workers", 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

March 14, Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, hearing entitled "Enhancing Vehicle Technology to Prevent Drunk Driving", 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, March 13, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Preparing for the Storm: Reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program," 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

March 13, Subcommittee on National Security, International Development, and Monetary Policy, hearing entitled "Promoting Corporate Transparency: Examining Legislative Proposals to Detect and Deter Financial Crime" 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

March 14, Subcommittee on Investor Protection, Entrepreneurship, and Capital Markets, hearing entitled "Putting Investors First? Examining the SEC's Best Interest Rule", 9:30 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, March 13, Full Committee, hearing entitled "NATO at 70: An Indispensable Alliance", 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

March 13, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 1004, the "Prohibiting Unauthorized Military Action in Venezuela Act", 4 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

March 14, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 920, the "Venezuela Arms Restriction Act"; H.R. 854, the "Humanitarian Assistance to the Venezuelan People Act of 2019"; and H.R. 1477, to assess and mitigate threats posed by Russian-Venezuelan security cooperation and for other purposes, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, March 13, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1232, the "Rescinding DHS' Waiver Authority for Border Wall Act"; H.R.1433, the "DHS MORALE Act"; H.R. 1589, the "CBRN Intelligence and Information Sharing Act of 2019"; H.R. 1590, the "Terrorist and Foreign Fighter Travel Exercise Act of 2019"; H.R. 1593, the "CLASS Act of 2019"; H.R. 1598, the "U.S. Customs and Border Protection Rural and Remote Hiring and Retention Strategy Act of 2019"; and H.R. 1639, the "CBP Workload Staffing Model Act", 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

March 13, Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery, hearing entitled “Improving the Federal Response: Perspectives on the State of Emergency Management”, 2 p.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, March 13, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1585, the “Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, March 13, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Forgotten Voices: The Inadequate Review and Improper Alteration of Our National Monuments”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

March 14, Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States, hearing entitled “Unmasking the Hidden Crisis of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women (MMIW): Exploring Solutions to End the Cycle of Violence”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, March 13, Full Committee, hearing entitled “FOIA: Examining Transparency Under the Trump Administration”, 9:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

March 13, Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties; and Subcommittee on Government Operations, joint hearing on H.R. 1076, the “Fair Chance to Compete for Jobs Act”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

March 14, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Hearing with Commerce Secretary Wilbur L. Ross, Jr.”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, March 13, Full Committee, hearing entitled “America in Space: Future Visions, Current Issues”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, March 13, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Flipping the Switch on Rural Digital Entrepreneurship”, 11:30 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, March 13, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, hearing entitled “Aligning Federal Surface Transportation Policy to Meet 21st Century Needs”, 10 a.m., HVC-210.

Committee on Ways and Means, March 13, Subcommittee on Social Security, hearing entitled “Protecting and Improving Social Security: Benefit Enhancements”, 2 p.m., 2020 Rayburn.

March 14, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The President’s Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Proposal with U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin”, 9 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Joint Meetings

Joint Hearing: March 12, Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of multiple veterans service organizations, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, March 12

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, March 12

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Paul B. Matey, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation of the nomination at 2:30 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Paul B. Matey, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Neomi J. Rao, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of H. Con. Res. 24—Expressing the sense of Congress that the report of Special Counsel Mueller should be made available to the public and to Congress (Subject to a Rule).

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